

THE ILLUSTRATED
SPORTING & DRAMATIC
NEWS

No. 137.—VOL. V.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1876.

[REGISTERED FOR
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ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr.

HARE.—This Theatre will OPEN on SATURDAY, Sept. 9, for a Short Season, under the management of Miss HELEN BARRY, when will be produced an entirely new and original play, in four acts, entitled ETHEL'S REVENGE, in which Miss Helen Barry will appear, supported by a powerful company. Acting Manager, Mr. John Huy.

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26th.
MONDAY, AUG. 21st } MYERS' GREAT HIPPODROME.
to } Two Performances Daily.
SATURDAY, AUG. 26th. }

THURSDAY, Aug. 24th, Fireworks and Races, in addition to above.

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extraordinary properties of Captain AHLSTROM'S FIRE DRESS (as exhibited before the Emperor of Germany, when half the population of Berlin witnessed the experiments), enable him to defy the effects of fire by remaining for an indefinite period in the midst of densest flames of petroleum. THURSDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS next at 7.30.

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DENS, Regent's Park, are OPEN daily (except Sunday). Admission, 1s.; on Monday, 6d.; Children always 6d. The Band of the Royal Horse Guards, under the direction of Mr. Charles Godfrey, will (by permission of Colonel Owen L. C. Williams) perform in the gardens at four o'clock every Saturday until further notice. The Indian Menagerie of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is open daily after 11 o'clock. The NEW LION HOUSE contains a full series of the larger Feline animals.

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April 25, 1876.

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"JEWELS OF RICH AND EXQUISITE FORM."—*Cymbeline*, Act I. sc. ii.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. The pressure upon our space compels us to hold over several articles prepared for this week's issue, and duly announced in our contents-bill.

. We have hitherto answered the larger number of letters containing queries, by post, but these are now becoming so numerous that for the future we shall reply only through the medium of this column.

DRAMATIC.

F. S. GRANT.—Adelaide Ristori was born at Civitale di Friuli, a small town in Lombardy, in 1822, and her parents were strolling players of small repute. She made her first appearance upon the stage when two months old.

ARCHERY.

E. D.—In "Wood's Bowman's Glory" we are told that in 1661, at a review of archers held in "Hide" Park, several of the archers "shot near twenty score yards within the compass of a hat," a feat far exceeding that which you think "grossly improbable."

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANXIOUS.—"Parrhasius" by N. P. Willis.

SCARLET.—If we did not reply it must have been because we were unable to supply the information.

THE ILLUSTRATED Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1876.

CIRCULAR NOTES.

We are informed by the London correspondent of the Liverpool *Porcupine*, that "Mr. Hepworth Dixon is writing a novel." There is a naïveté about the statement which is charming. All Mr. Hepworth Dixon's works are novels.

THE members of the Islington Vestry are a delightful body of parochial legislators, and, if we are to credit one of their number, this is how they spend the ratepayers' money:—"They were told they must excuse Mr. Clark because he was a young man. If he had been a number of years in the office they would have been asked to excuse him because he was an old man. (Laughter.) In that case they would have pensioned him, as they had pensioned a troublesome old man some years ago. That old man was a very obstinate man, and the Vestry could do nothing with him, so they gave him £100 a-year as a pension, and vestrymen said, 'Don't vote against it, because it will be cheap to get rid of him at the price.' (Laughter.) There was another gentleman—a collector—who was disobedient, and when he was in trouble he came before the Vestry with a certificate stating that he was afflicted with ophthalmia. He gave the Vestry ophthalmia at once, and they could not see his disobedience. (Laughter.) They gave him a pension of £100 a-year, which soon cured his ophthalmia. There was another obstinate man—a road foreman—and to get rid of him they found out he had rheumatism, and gave him a pension of £50 a-year. The ratepayers, therefore, were paying £250 a-year as the reward of obstinacy."

We are indebted to a contemporary for the information that Mr. Arthur Matthison has sold the American right of his version of *The Great Divorce Case* (we have slightly altered the phrasing of the announcement, but it really amounts to what we say) to Mr. H. J. Montague. His version! Now, is it not a fact that Mr. Matthison wrought in conjunction with Mr. Charles Wyndham on the piece that is now being played at the Criterion? If that was so, it would be interesting to know to whom, in America, Mr. Wyndham has sold his portion of the work.

THEY do strange things in cricket now-a-days. At Worcester, last week, the *cuts* that were made to square-leg were perfectly astounding. Our informant is the special cricket correspondent of a sporting contemporary.

THERE are strange things in the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and amongst them a piece of original music, pasted sheet by sheet upon a revolving stand, of which the following is the title-page:—

DEDICATED BY THE U. S.

TO THE NATIONS OF THE UNIVERSE

THE CENTENNIAL TRIPLE

OPERATIC HYMN.

PIANO ARRANGEMENT AND TRIPLE HYMN

"THUS VOX POPULI VOX DEO."

TO SENTIMENTS WITHIN NONE COMPETITO

WITH THESE THE AUTHOR,

G. LUDEWIG KURTZ,

NEW YORK CITY.

This is perhaps a little obscure, and so the author may have thought, for the next sheet contains his explanatory address. It runs as follows:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

This cabin thus complete, you may gently turn around.

The lines in places read, in thought and grace abound,
Most respectfully,

E. LUDEWIG KURTZ.

These copies can be had at the reduced rate of sixty cents a copy per mail, or otherwise from the author, No. 135, Thirteenth Street, Phila.

N.B.—The Centennial Triple Operatic Song, as a parlour opera, ought to be wherever there is a piano played, and in every public school in the U.S.

Thus to give the rising generation food for the inward being to enable them to be more dignified and patriotic.

The words in "Hurrah" and aye; ay; ay; in choruses, it is desirable to sound the A this to comply unto day and America.

THE AUTHOR.

Royal patronage gives a man grandeur, and makes him envied; but—however, we'll not anticipate. Donizetti, a nephew of the author of *Favorita*, was professor of music at the court of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz. The death of his royal master not only deprived him of his elevated position, but drove him from Constantinople to Paris, where, in accents of mournful regret, he thus describes

the privileges he once so happily and proudly enjoyed as a Sultan's pianist:—"You are summoned (says he) at eight o'clock in the morning to play for three hours. You must be in full uniform; you wait for seven hours in an elegant gallery, where you are forbidden to sit down. From time to time they come to tell you what is going on in his Majesty's apartments. 'His Highness is going to arise.' The moment you hear this you must prostrate yourself. 'His Highness is going to the bath.' Again you prostrate yourself. 'His Highness is dressing.' You prostrate yourself lower than ever. And so the intelligence continues, until you are wearied beyond endurance, and the Sultan is finally ready. Then an immense grand piano is brought in without its legs, for the floor of the gallery is a precious mosaic of the rarest woods, and must not bear the weight of a piano even. The immense instrument is placed on the backs of five wretched Turks, suitably placed on their hands and knees. 'But,' say you, 'I cannot play on a five Turk piano.' Supposing you complain that the instrument is not level, they carefully place a cushion under the knees of the smallest Turk and tell you to proceed, without suspecting the sentiment of humanity that has occasioned the delay. The Sultan appears, and, after all manner of prostrations, you ask for a chair. There is none; no one ever sits in the presence of the Sultan. You protest you cannot play unless you sit, and the Sultan finally orders a chair to be produced. You play for an hour or so, and after the Sultan has watched the effect on his followers until he is weary, he rudely thrusts you aside and takes your place. The eunuchs and the rest awake, and applaud his discords with rapturous exclamations, and after he has amused himself thus until he is satisfied of the superiority of his music over yours, you are dismissed." And go away, we should think, with feelings of relief hardly less satisfactory than those with which the people of Constantinople heard that the Sultan Abdul Aziz had himself been dismissed.

"ATLAS," in the *World*, calls attention to the many parts played in his time by the late Mr. E. P. Hingston. "Play-writer and actor, traveller, spiritualist, Indian chief, Fiji courtier, agent and accountant, pedestrian, manufacturer of Dutch clocks, journalist, Cincinnati pig-raiser, notable 'brave' amongst the Maories and South Sea Islanders, sheep-shearer in New Zealand, and store-keeper in 'Frisco,—no man ever saw more phases of human life." But this was not all. Mr. Hingston wrote the most thrilling penny dreadful that ever emanated from the press. No such flesh-creeping work of fiction as "A Wife's Tragedy" has been done since poor Hingston—acting on advice jokingly given him by Douglas Jerrold—set to work at Margate and wrote the fearsome narrative.

"A RUSTIC RUSKIN" has written a book, which he calls "The Real and the Ideal, the Beautiful and the True; or, Art in the Nineteenth Century." We shall presently do ourselves the pleasure of dealing with his half-crown's worth, at suitable length; for the present, a note on the dedication must content us—

"To thee—
(The Right Honorable the Earl of Dudley)
"the courteous, kind, and courtly Earl,
'The glass of fashion and the mould of form,'"

Marry come up, Mr. Rustic Ruskin! What deadly injury have you received at his lordship's hands that you should treat him in this fashion? It is questionable,—mind you we do not know—whether his lordship is gifted with a sense of humour. And, "A Rustic Ruskin" might have considered the heat of the weather.

We regret to observe that "Atlas" is getting loose in his habits—of composition. This is anything but good form: "Does he really think that people are born dead-shots, like they are said to be born poets? And that [what?] about the prohibition of 'insufficient instruments' is delicious. Will an ordinary central fire pass muster as a 'sufficient instrument' to shoot game with, or must one be provided with a 'chokebore'?"

OUR PICTURES AND SKETCHES.

MISS HENDERSON.

THE charming young light comedy actress first achieved repute in opéra-bouffe at the Philharmonic Theatre. She then went to America, where her popularity rapidly grew and extended, until, returning to her native land, she joined the Gaiety Company, where her achievements have, from time to time, been duly noted in our dramatic columns.

SKETCHES FROM RECENT YACHT MATCHES.

OUR foreign libellers cannot this year, at any rate, describe the English summer which ushers in the yachting season as "three hot days and a thunderstorm," and it has been specially pleasurable to escape from the dusty streets and burning pavement and close air to lounge about the deck of some dainty yacht, which glides through "the glad waters of the dark blue sea" like a thing of life. The records of yacht matches are enough to demand a paper exclusively their own, to barely chronicle them, and we find it difficult to keep abreast of the news they provide for these columns. Therefore Mr. Tozer has this week provided us not with one, but with a group of sketches, recording events which we have already briefly dealt with in our news columns.

STEEL GREY.

This wonderfully successful trotting mare has a record to show which surely equals that of any champion on the other side of the Atlantic. In June, 1870, she beat Stephenson's Grey Sully, of Leeds, on Stretford-road for £50, when only four years old. She was then ridden by Andy McMann. Time, 17 min. In August, 1871, she won the Liverpool Grand International Trotting Stakes of £120 over Aintree racecourse, beating seventeen competitors. In September, 1871, she won the Manchester and Grand International of £100 round the Royal Oak Park Trotting Track. In December, 1872, she beat Bulldog in a match for £100 a-side, at Leamington-lane, conceding 300 yards in five miles. In 1872 she won the silver cup for the best trotter at the Birmingham Horse Show;

April, 1873, beating six others, she won the Great Harwood Cup. At the All-England Show, Aston Park, Birmingham, in the same year, she won the silver cup for the best trotter. In June, 1874, she won the Manchester Grand International of £60, "off scratch." At the Grand International Show, in the same year, Pomona Gardens, Manchester, she took the first prize (a silver cup), in saddle, for the best trotter; and in the same year she won the first prize for the best trotter in harness at the above-named place, when she was driven by Mr. J. Whittaker, of Manchester. In March, 1875, she trotted against time at the Royal Oak Trotting Track, £100 a-side, doing ten miles in 29min 45sec. In April of the same year she beat Mr. H. B. Cragg's horse Peeping Tom, of Glasgow, ten miles, for £200 a-side, at Leamington-lane—time, 27min 56½sec, the fastest time on record. She was then, as on most of the previous occasions, ridden by Mr. McMann. In last week's impression we recorded Steel Grey's most recent success, together with that of Salvini.

SALVINI.

This good-looking specimen of an American trotting horse, a representation of which, from the pencil of Mr. Sturgess, will be found on another page, is the property of Mr. E. H. Webbing, of Brantford, Ontario. Salvini was bred in Kentucky, and is now nine years old. He stands 15 hands 1in high, and is a beautiful dappled grey, the markings being exceedingly handsome about shoulder and quarter. Salvini was sold by the breeder to a gentleman in Buffalo, N.Y., for a stiffish sum; but he did not remain long on that side of Niagara river, for, as soon as his present owner saw him, he made an offer, which was accepted, and Salvini became a settler in the Dominion. It will suffice to say, as was proved at Liverpool last week, that the horse is a splendid and stylish goer, and is equally clever as a trotter, either in front of a sulky or under the saddle. It should be remarked, however, that he had the advantage of being piloted by a gentleman who, in his way, is just as perfect an artist as Salvini himself. By the way, it would be most interesting to see Steel Grey and Salvini matched, on terms satisfactory to the high contracting parties.

THE DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH IN ST. PETERSBURG.

The grand city which arose so rapidly where there had before been but a bleak morass—where rows of stately houses in broad, regular streets and immense squares took the place of a vast, dreary expanse of wet and barren soil, relieved here and there with a few pale birches and stunted pines—in other words, St. Petersburg, is a very different place from London. It has been called "the Paris of the Baltic," but, despite its stateliness and magnitude, it fails to impress you, as Paris does, with a sense of grace and beauty. The dull, leaden sky is very unlike that of France. The trees, which have been coaxed and nursed into continuous life, despite the climate, have a semi-sickly aspect, and the blue and golden domes of the churches seem like feeble efforts to be gay and cheerful under very depressing circumstances. With more justice, St. Petersburg has been compared to Berlin, which in many points it resembles. Such is the city in which the Duchess of Edinburgh is now at home with her family, enjoying the domestic and social pleasures of her position, but doubtless looking forward with some natural impatience to the hour of her return to England and her royal husband, who is now at sea.

CAPTAIN AHLSTROM'S DEFIANCE OF FIRE.

Captain Ahlstrom has brought to this country an invention of serious importance, in the testing of which we must all feel deeply interested. The dress he wears enables him to enter with impunity into the fiercest and hottest flames, and is provided with a system of tubes passing currents of cold water constantly between his body and the outer air, which passing out through the hose attached to the dress, can be directed to any point for the extinguishment of the flames. The invention is that of J. W. Oeslberg, of Berlin. Its great utility and importance cannot fail to be recognised.

A STORM IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Nature has, perhaps, no scene more grandly terrible, or more extraordinary to the dweller in quiet towns, than that which is witnessed when a storm rages far up amongst the tops of high mountains. The soft, fleecy clouds, which partly veiled their rugged sides, and melted upwards into a sky of a brilliant and sunny blue, grow rapidly thick and dark, and, rolling onwards, enshroud hills and sky in one deep hue of sombre dulness. A clammy chill falls upon the tourists as they look around for shelter. The wind, from moaning like some living creature in anguish, swells into the thunderous roar of its most savage violence, blending shrieks and howls with the noise of crashing timber, while tossing foliage generates a sound like the fierce rush of mighty waters. Fiercely-driving rain falls in a deluge, terribly vivid flashes of lightning follow one upon another in rapid succession, and peal upon peal of the loudest thunder add to the terrific grandeur. But such storms are commonly of very brief duration; and the tourists, from their hastily attained shelter, under some jutting crags, have the pleasure of seeing the flashes of lightning grow rapidly fewer and fainter, the clouds grow lighter, and the blue sky gradually resume its former brilliancy and clearness. The eclipsed sun resumes its warmth and brilliancy, and soon nature smiles forth, with not a sign remaining of her former outburst of ungovernable fury. It was at the commencement of such a storm that our artist made his drawing.

RICHARD BANNER OAKLEY.

Starting in business on an extensive scale without available capital has long ceased to be a secret process. Everybody knows that it is done, and how it's done, only, unfortunately, everybody does not know when it's done, or who's doing it. The late Charles Dickens dealt with the curious process many years ago in "Martin Chuzzlewit," when he told us how Mr. Montagu Tigg, being moneyless, used all his available capital, or "brass," as they say in Yorkshire—and in this case that term is the more appropriate—to open a new insurance office, the "Anglo-Bengalee United," on an extensive scale, with premises in the City, richly furnished and magnificently fitted up, to which he drove in a private cab, adorned with a diminutive tiger. Tigg grew rich on the regularly-paid premiums, sold annuities, and at first paid them, or at last didn't, as the case was, out of large sums in ready cash for which they had been—as somebody fondly supposed—purchased. He lent money at exorbitant interest, and might, if his ambition had been no higher, and the late great novelist had permitted, have become a Lord Mayor, and been lauded as a poet by high-class journalists, who in private laughed his literary pretensions to scorn. In like manner Mr. R. B. Oakley gave us the "Co-operative Credit Bank" and as the Anglo-Bengalee came to grief, so in like manner did the C.C.B. "There is nothing new under the sun." And now, alas! for the cause of virtuous banking, on the Tegg principle, Mr. Richard Banner Oakley made his appearance in the dock, as we see him in Mr. Matt Stretch's sketch from life, where, with the well-caught expression depicted on his face in our sketch, he listened to the learned Recorder of London as he sentenced him to five years' penal servitude.

THE CHANGE.—"FINISHING TOUCHES."

A SKETCH FROM THE ROAD.

LITTLE thought John Palmer, a famous actor-manager of the eighteenth century, of the wonderful revolution he was effecting, when, in his anxiety to get his actors from London with greater speed, and his letters to London with greater certainty and rapidity—a letter was then about three days reaching London from Bath—he memorialised the Government in favour of his mail-coach scheme. With little effect, for the M.P.'s of his day only sneered at him as a crack-brained enthusiast, until the great William Pitt took him by the hand, and saw that John Palmer wanted to be a national benefactor, and ought not to be hindered. So, on the eighth day of August, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-four, his Majesty's first mail-coach made its appearance, running between Bristol and London, and this was speedily followed by many others, whereby trade received a new impetus all over the country, travelling became common instead of rare, and the Government effected a saving of twenty thousand pounds a year. This was that John Palmer of whose powers of persuasion so many anecdotes are still told. You may remember how he refused to accept the title of Plausible Jack, at the same time admitting that he had once persuaded a sheriff's officer who had arrested him to become bail for him. He died on the stage while playing "The Stranger." The mail coaches flourished to the extinction of most of the older public conveyances, and with them increased and multiplied and grew prosperous exceedingly the old posting-houses. Wonderful old places they were, and many are the famous writers who have sung their praises. It was an event of never-failing interest and importance when the mail was expected, and "the change" came clattering over the big pebbles of the spacious inn yard, when everyone in and about the establishment shared the brief excitement, and loiterers of all kinds and both sexes accumulated into a crowd outside the yard gates, listening for that rude old post-horn, which in the smart scarlet-coated guard's hands had become quite a respectable musical instrument. The glories of those old posting-houses are no more, but the famous four-in-hand clubs which sprang up in amateur emulation still have most worthy representatives, as our readers—thanks to the admirable sketches of Mr. John Sturgess, know right well. The good old gentlemen dragsmen have noble successors in manly young, and sturdy old, gentlemen of the true English stock, with wealth and leisure for riding their simple and wholesome hobbies, who still delight in handling the ribbons, and still keep up like dying echoes the roadside glories of some few of our once famous and numerous posting houses. From one of these Mr. Sturgess has this week given us his sketch. The Change is in readiness, and rude hands grow tender in their admiration as they put Finishing Touches to the final preparations, listening the while for those cheerful notes which shall announce the rapidly approaching coach.

CAVILL'S SWIM.

THE weather promised favourably and the tides were neap on the morning of Cavill's proposed great swim; and at about forty minutes past one he plunged into the sea from the end of the Admiralty Pier, Dover, having previously well greased himself with porpoise oil. He wore a tight-fitting jersey, saturated with the same oil which has lately attained some celebrity for this purpose, although Captain Webb believes that common tallow, or any other thick grease, is quite as good. The sea was smooth, the sky clear, the moon shone brightly; for a time Cavill made rapid progress at racing speed, although the jelly fish, which were very thick, stung and teased him severely. At half-past three day began to break; and the tide, which had been setting to the westward, grew slack. Cavill, ploughing through the water at about twenty-four strokes per minute, with grampus-like breathing, made good headway.

At six a.m. the swimmer was going well and strongly, and the luggers had to be rowed to keep up with him, it being a dead calm. At seven a.m. the South Foreland bore north by west seven miles distant, the tide setting to the eastward. At eight a.m. Cavill showed signs of fatigue, changing his position often, and making tardy progress. At nine o'clock he complained of his arms aching, and was evidently losing control over his limbs, and steering very badly. The temperature of the water was 66 deg. Mr. Walter, the medical attendant, says Cavill suffered from an enlarged liver and dyspepsia, but he looks a strong and well-built man. Captain Webb thinks he should not have worn the jersey, which held a large quantity of water, and impeded the action of his limbs. At ten o'clock Cavill was going about nineteen strokes a minute, and making very slow progress, but his friends in the small boat were giving him a great deal of refreshment.

Captain Webb says:—"It now began to be apparent that he could not get across, as he seemed dreadfully fatigued, and looked very distressed; but he did not seem to think of giving in, hopeless though his efforts appeared. About noon he was swimming still slower, in fact, seemed to be rather delirious. As he was making most erratic courses, and going in any direction but the right one, it seemed a pity to let him continue, as he had no chance of success; however, his friends kept him supplied with stimulants, and no one liked to interfere. We were now about mid-channel, and the land on both sides was quite plain. The sea was getting rather lumpy, and poor Cavill was evidently quite done up. A little after one o'clock it came to a crisis, as Cavill appeared to lose all consciousness, and if D. Pamplin, of London, who was in the small boat, had not promptly dived in, he would probably have been drowned. As it was, he was prostrate and unconscious when they got him out, and Dr. Walter informed me he was quite pulseless; but, by vigorous treatment, they restored him, and he is now recovering, though very feverish. He was in the water 11 hours and 25 minutes."

Mr. Cavill himself states that mistakes were made as to his object in making the spurts on several occasions; that his real object was to get out of shoals of jelly fish through which he had to pass for seven or eight miles after leaving Dover, and that this extra exertion took a great deal of strength out of him. He also mentioned that he was chilled before going into the water by having to wait on the pier undressed a considerable time for a boat to take him off. He says that the last portion of the swim was done in great physical exhaustion, but exonerates his friends of the charge of overdosing him with stimulants, half a pint of whiskey being all that he took from beginning to end. A subscription has been opened for Cavill in Dover.

It is a curious fact, to which attention has not yet been drawn, that Mrs. Bravo's first and second husbands were connected with Jewish families. Of course the late Mr. Charles Bravo was only the step-son of Mr. Joseph Bravo, his real name being Turner. But the Bravos are an old West Indian Jewish family, and Mr. Joseph Bravo's partner in business is Mr. M. Solomon, a respected co-religionist residing in Jamaica. The Ricardos are a purely Jewish family of Italian extraction, and Captain Ricardo was, we believe, a near relation of the Countess of March (wife of the eldest son of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon), who was a Miss Ricardo, and whose marriage was the result of a true and romantic attachment.

A SLAYER OF GROUSE.

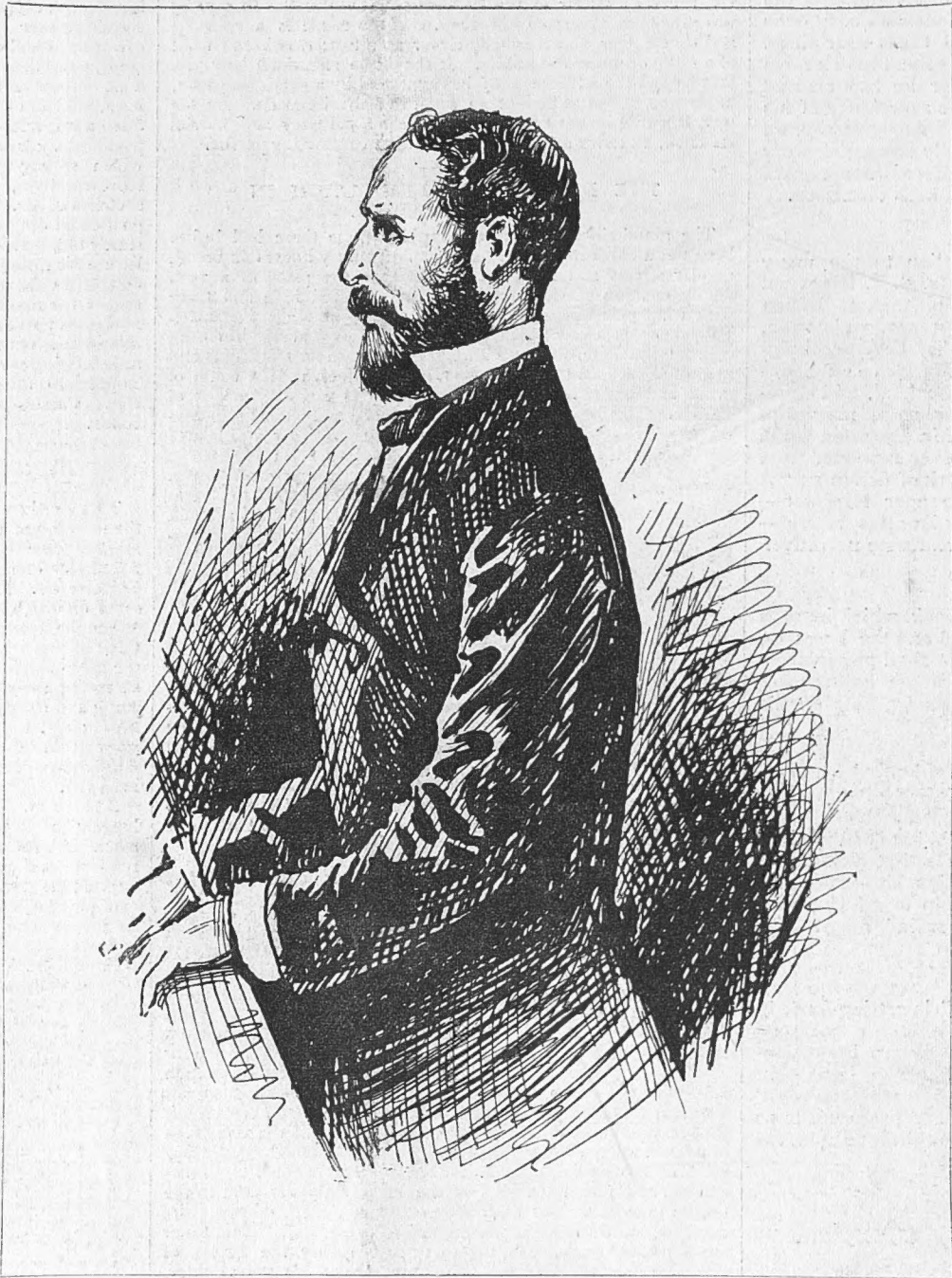
AT eight o'clock, on the evening of Saturday last, the birds of the strong wing, the straight flight, the small head, and the flavour dear to epicures, were smoking on the dinner-tables of London. Those who were doomed to remain in town, while privileged, by way of consolation, to enjoy the ornithological dainties of the 12th amid scenes the opposite of those proper to the festival of grouse, may have found some agreeable intellectual, or semi-intellectual, distraction when sipping their claret, by speculating not only on the precise district of which the recently-defunct and cunningly-cooked bird was a denizen, but on the individual gunner before whose skill it fell a victim. The grouse, unlike the partridge, seldom succumbs to an ignoble death inflicted by base hands. Few of those misgivings, therefore, which are apt to disturb the peace of the diner who orders, on September the 1st, the bird whose haunt is the lowly stubble and turnip-tops, will have been apt to intrude themselves upon the fancy of the gentleman, real or imaginary, who sits down to the bird whose home is the Highland heather, for the first time in the year. That grouse, he may be well assured, with its taste recalling a medley of visions of undulating seas of purple heather or golden bilberry, varied by the grey of granite and the emerald green of grass—of guns, cartridges, dogs, loaders, drivers, and luncheon—that grouse, which is the central figure of associations such as these, was the prey of no hireling poacher. Patrician, let our solitary diner feel satisfied, was the hand, and unerring the aim that brought him down—a lifeless, fluttering mass of dusky, yet lustrous, plumage. At this point in the meditations of our diner would occur the opportunity for something conceived in the same spirit as the Homeric catalogue of ships. The muse of sport, invoked to tell whose the breechloader and whose the prowess without which the bird would not be lying on the table in Pall Mall, would naturally be compelled to enumerate the list of those gunners, any one of whom might conceivably be the individual in question. Thus would there be recounted the names of the company who shot over the innumerable acres of Studley Royal, of those who dealt death to the birds at Broomhead, and of those who followed Lord Walsingham in his long day's work over Lady Franklin Russell's Yorkshire moor, Blubberhouses.

Though a young man, Lord Walsingham must be regarded as one of the chief heroes of the 12th, and in many respects the most distinguished gunner of the day. He has, at least, achieved a feat unprecedented previously, and unrivalled since, in the annals of sport. He has shot more grouse to his own gun in one day than any other human being who ever handled a fowl-piece. Thus, in his own line, he is a "champion." The grouse season of 1872 was the most sensational ever known. In one day, 1,120 brace were slaughtered at Studley Royal; 2,626 birds were shot on the moors of Mr. Remington Wilson; 1,000 brace were shot on Mr. F. Milbanke's Hebridean moor of Wemmergill, its proprietor himself securing more than one-third of the total, 350 brace; while, crowning exploit of all, Lord Walsingham, in the course of a few hours, brought down 846 birds. Whether these achievements would have been equalled by the gunners of a past generation, had the institution of grouse-driving, under which alone such gigantic results are possible—and a grouse-drive, it may be said, for the benefit of the uninitiated, is a very different thing from a pheasant-battue—existed, must be matter of speculation. Osbaldeston killed, we know, 100 pheasants to his own gun in one day; Lord Kennedy, and Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, upwards of 100 brace of partridges on several occasions; while the same amount of grouse constituted a by no means exceptional bag when the gunner tramped the heather, and fired over the dogs. "When we find," writes Mr. Archibald Stuart Wortley, in "Blackwood," "that men of such experience in shooting as Mr. F. Milbanke, the Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Devonshire, and Lord Ripon have all for some years taken to driving their moors as the best way of killing the grouse and of obtaining sport, we can afford to dismiss, as insignificant, the dissatisfaction of people who do not understand it. . . . The smallest moor is capable of being improved to a wonderful extent by this means (the drive); indeed, there are one or two shootings in Perthshire—not to speak of Yorkshire—of not more than a few hundred acres in extent, where the number of birds realised for the pot has been nearly trebled by a regular system of small drives over the walls or gullies, continued to the end of the season." While grouse are the quarries by whose destruction Lord Walsingham has most conspicuously distinguished himself, he has been scarcely less successful with other varieties of game. At the blue rock he has not probably tried his hands; nor does he belong to that class of sportsmen whose boast and profession it is to excel in the tournament of doves. In his own department of sport, he claims an actual preeminence over his contemporaries, while he possesses in a remarkable manner all those gifts which are calculated to enable him to maintain that proud position. He has a precision of eye and a nicety of touch—attested in many other pastimes or occupations—a temper over which he never loses his control, and a physical system which seems literally impervious to all kinds of fatigue. Perpetual perambulation does not seem to tire him; nor, on the memorable day when, with his own breechloader, he slew twice four hundred grouse and upwards, did the percussion of the gun leave behind it the slightest feeling of headache, of indisposition, or discomfort.

It is to the combination of natural aptitudes and moral deter-

mination that Lord Walsingham is indebted for the position which, as a sportsman, he has won. In the first place, he is one of those persevering personages who resolve to do well and thoroughly whatever they take up. In the second place he has, as has been hinted, those subtle physical capacities without which no amount of resolution would have secured him renown with the gun. His accuracy of aim and strength of nerve are as noticeable in the billiard-room as in the heather; his manipulative dexterity is shown to perfection in the art with which he has not merely made the finest collection of beetles, butterflies, and caterpillars in the United Kingdom—a collection which Lord Walsingham will probably ultimately give to the nation—but himself prepared the tiny bodies and the delicate frames of these creeping and flying things against the ravages of decay. Nor is Lord Walsingham only a scientific entomologist and an accomplished gunner, the patron of *savants* and the pride of keepers. Though it should be specially mentioned that his lordship, being of the same order of marksmen as Lord Huntingfield, Dhuleep Singh, and Lord Stamford, always "loosing off" whenever he sees a fair chance of killing, and seldom or never missing, is particularly acceptable to the custodians of coverts, whose highest ambition it is to find justice done to their diligent supervision in the shape of a bag of four figures at the end of a day's work.

Lord Walsingham has studied and practised scientific farming, and in his own county (Norfolk), a province famous above all others for art and excellence in agriculture and breeding, is recognised as an authority in all matters appertaining to crops, cattle,



RICHARD BANNER OAKLEY RECEIVING SENTENCE.
(From a sketch made in Court.)

and varieties of soil. In no inconsiderable degree his attainments in this direction have this year received the meed of national recognition, for Lord Walsingham has been offered, and has accepted, the office of chairman of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Lord Walsingham has also been fortunate enough to attract the favourable notice of the Prime Minister, who recently made him a trustee of the British Museum. To his new duties Lord Walsingham has addressed himself with the same ability and resolution that he has displayed in whatever else he has engaged in. In Parliament he has given token of some rhetorical power and of much aptitude for public business, though the themes on which he has spoken have been for the most part unambitious in character, such as the prevention of noxious gases and the checking of poisonous vapours. His presence is pleasant, his voice good, his manner agreeable, and he never fails to impress those who are brought into communication with him on any subject of business as a young nobleman of something more than promise.—*The World*.

THE Shoreham Regatta was held in the Harbour on Friday last in beautiful weather. Everything went off in the most satisfactory manner, and with studied care and punctuality.

THE Glamorganshire Hunt Committee have brought a pack of hounds from Essex. A master has been found to hunt the county, and the committee have raised such a subscription as will enable him to hunt the county in a suitable manner two days a week.

TOO EARLY GROUSE.

FIVE hundred grouse—consigned as salmon to the Fish Market at Billingsgate—found their way into the two London poultry markets by the end of last week, the price put upon them being from 5s. to 12. each. On Monday there were 10,000 grouse in the two markets, and they sold at from 2s. to 5s. each. Last year exorbitant prices were obtained for the birds earliest in the markets; hence there has now been a great effort made by dealers to be first in the market. Commenting upon this state of things, the *Whitehall Review* says:—

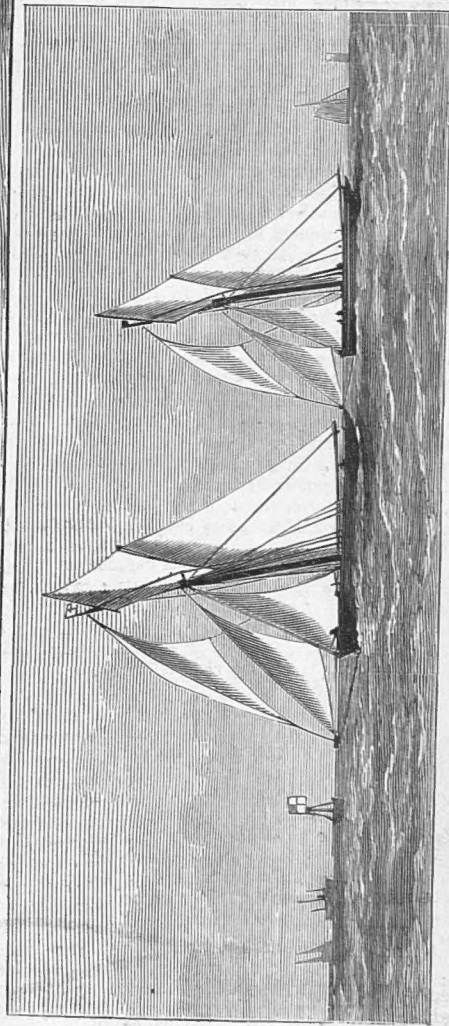
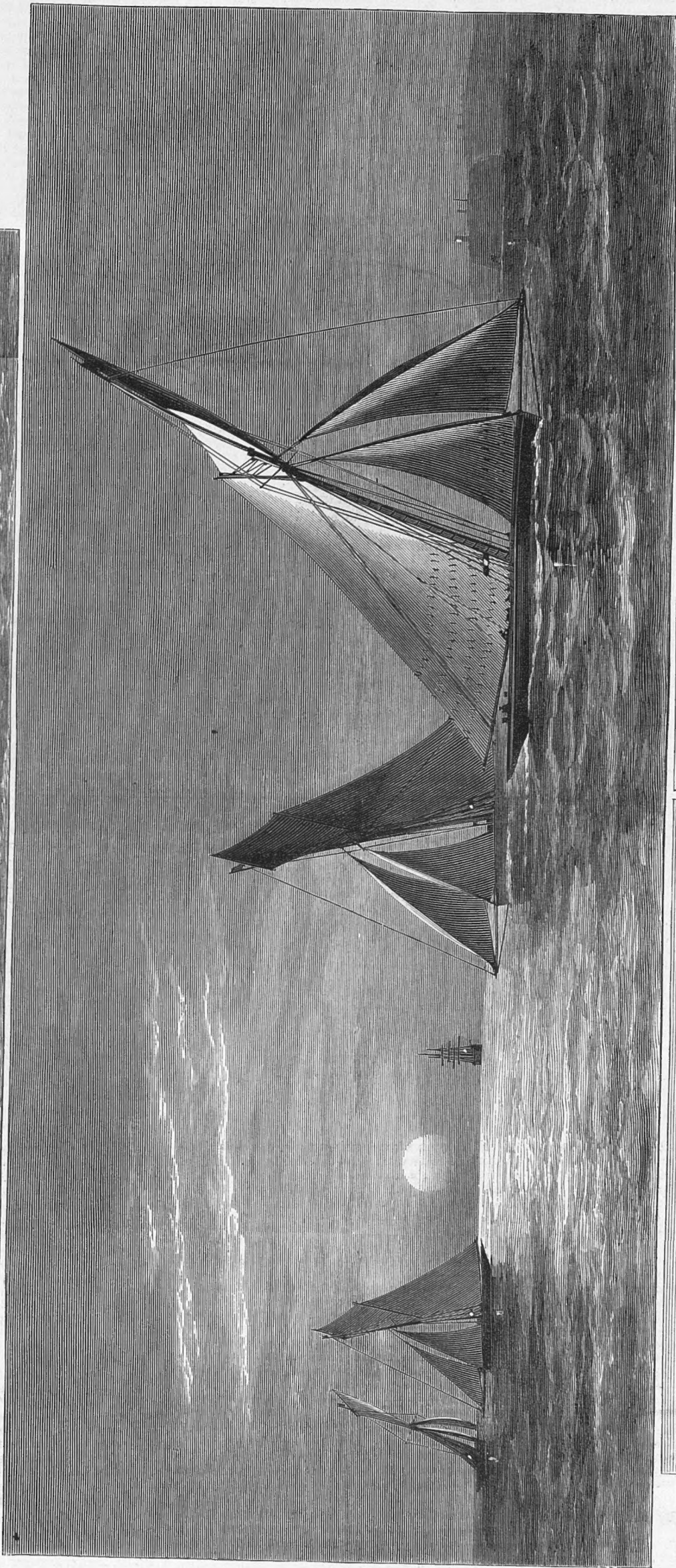
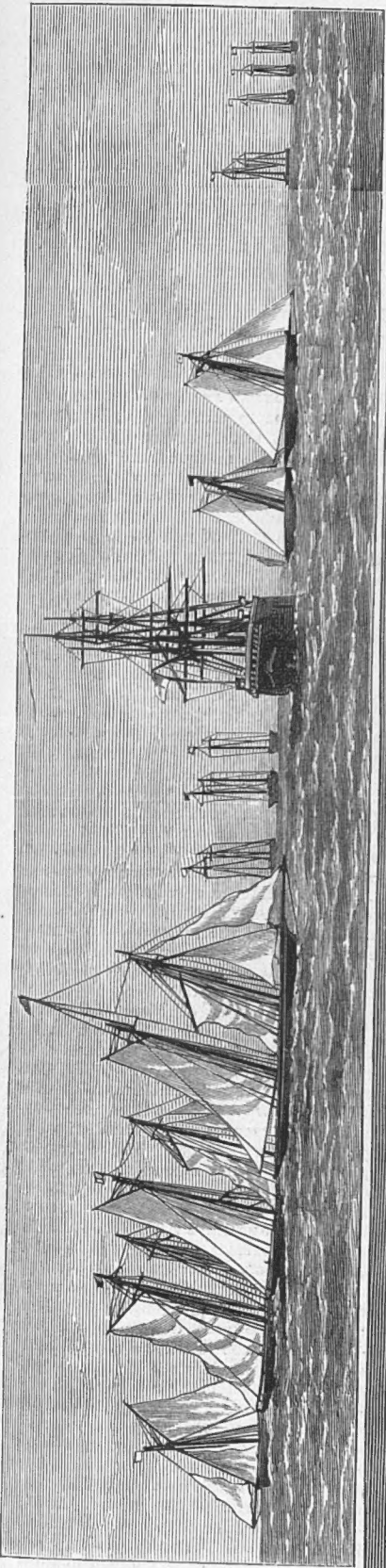
The greatly-increased and still increasing cost of grouse shooting is certainly one of the most curious signs of the present day. Ten or a dozen years ago a moor upon which three parties of two guns each could find ample sport from the 12th of August to the 30th of September was to be hired for £100 to £150 for the season, including a shooting box which, although not newly furnished by Jackson and Graham, contained every needful comfort for half a dozen friends, besides three or four ladies, who made it their place of sojourn for the shooting season. But all this has changed. Not for £100, or £200, or barely double that amount can a moor of this kind be rented now. A couple of years ago a well-known sporting nobleman showed in black and white that what with the immensely-increased sums now asked for shooting, the expenses of a few friends living at the shooting box, the use of cartridges, the hire of gamekeepers and gillies, purchase of dogs and payment of beaters, every grouse shot in the Highlands must cost the proprietor or his lessee of the shooting

not less than twenty-two or three shillings. We all know that these birds can be, and are, sold much cheaper than this in London. How comes it, then, that at some hundreds of miles from where they are killed this kind of game can be had for less than half what it cost originally? The reasons are obvious. In the first place, there are very many more grouse shot than could be consumed if they were not sold considerably under the sum it took to kill and bring them to market. And in the second, the chances are that perhaps more than one-third of the birds sold in the Metropolis never cost those who sell them to the game dealers more than the price of powder and shot, or the wear and tear of the nets with which they are caught. In other words, for one legitimately-killed grouse brought to bag on the moors belonging to, or rented by, the individual who shoots it, there are at least two or three that have been as decidedly robbed by those who send them to London as the apples of an orchard are filched by the boys who climb the walls for the purpose. Whether it is right or wrong to take advantage of this balance of prices is a question of morality which we leave others to answer; it is sufficient to know that what we have stated is the simple fact.

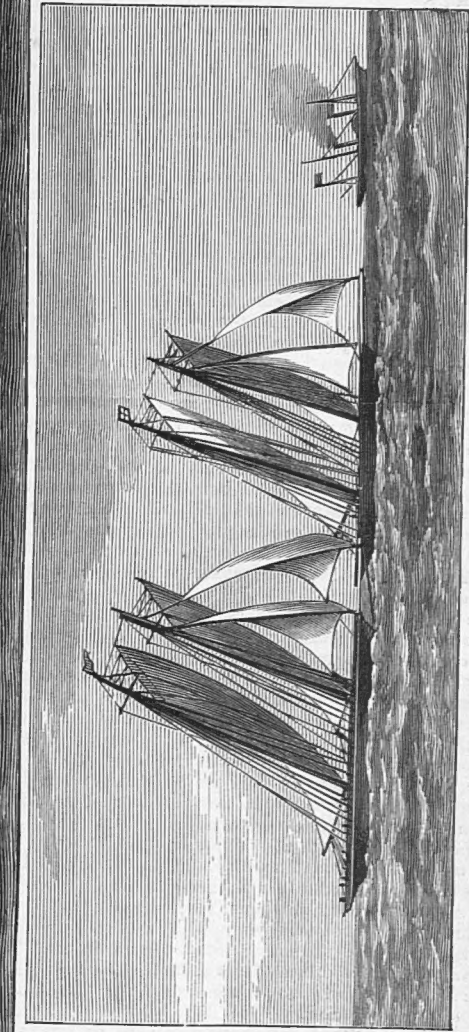
It would be an affectation of ignorance to imagine for a moment that no grouse are killed on the moors before the 12th. Great numbers of birds are offered for sale in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and our other large towns before the 12th. That these, or that even half of them, should have come from Scotland, or even from Yorkshire or Derbyshire, would be little, if at all, less than a miracle. We have learnt how to transmit money orders by the telegraphic wires, but as yet we have not been able to send game by this means. The fact is that so long as the poachers manage to escape the keepers, the produce of their guns or nets may be exposed for sale any time after 1 a.m. on the 12th of August, and no authority could interfere with them. Thus it is that many dinner tables in London on Saturday, to say nothing of many more on Sunday, had on them for second course a brace or more of well-kept excellent grouse, in as good or better order than the Duke of Sutherland or the Earl of Seafield could boast of for some two or three days. For, as we all know, the grouse is a bird which requires to be kept some time before it is eaten, and which loses more than half its gastronomic charms if roasted and eaten before it is, at any rate, a little "high."

The only sad fact connected with grouse shooting is that, like deer stalking, it is becoming every year more and more unattainable to any save the very wealthy. The moors are fast passing out of the hands of the Scotch lairds, or squires, whose incomes are below £5,000. The immense price now paid for good shooting, whether by purchasing or renting, is a temptation which few save those to whom money is no object can withstand. There are districts of moorland which are now snapped up when put in the market at four or five times the price they would have fetched twenty years ago. A few wealthy noblemen, like the two we have named above, and, perhaps, a score of commoners who have valuable property elsewhere, still hold fast to their old possessions. But by far the greater number of the best shootings have passed from the hands of the old proprietors, and now belong to *les nouveaux riches*.

There is not probably a parish of the Highlands in which entails have not been broken for the purpose of selling the moors attached to the property, and of which the title-deeds would now have to be sought for in Manchester, Leeds, or Liverpool. Betting-men have a saying that "everything follows the money," which might with great truth be applied to moorland property on which grouse can be shot or deer can be stalked in the north. Fifty years hence it is more than probable there will hardly be a Highland name found amongst all the owners of estates to the north of Aberdeen. Wealthy men have discovered of what immense advantage to their health are a few weeks spent on the moors, and moors they will have, let the latter cost what they may.



No. 1.—R.Y.S. REGATTA.—The start for the Queen's Cup.



No. 2.—R. VIC. Y.C. REGATTA CUTTER MATCH.—The Yachts off the Noman.
No. 4.—R.Y.S. REGATTA.—The Hildegarde and Olga off Old Castle Point in the second round.

No. 3.—R.Y.S. REGATTA.—The Arrow winning the Cutter Match.

YACHTING AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

REVIEWS.

In Front of the World. A Novel. By the author of "Pyrna," "Coralia," &c. The Charing-cross Publishing Company.

"It is the close of a glorious summer's day, and the bright sun, slowly sinking to rest, begins to tinge the heavens with the crimson glow that marks his departure in peace from our hemisphere." The scene is a grassy bank of the Thames. The actors are a couple of young men of tender years and experience, much given to hugging each other in the French manner, and leaning on each other's shoulders, and twining their arms about each other's necks, and generally conducting themselves like a couple of fibreless Rosa-Matildas of the male sex. One of these, it is to be hoped impossible, gushers, is the authoress's (it must be an authoress) hero of "In Front of the World." He is, albeit "they are both well-made and of middle height," the better made of the pair, and the more gorgeously handsome. He is dark; his friend is fair. "It is the dark one who addresses his friend in a soft flowing voice, like the ripple of a brook over its pebbled bed," and this is what he says: "It is on such an evening as this that I feel the delight of manhood, the pleasure of simple existence. See how calm the river lies, how soft the glow of the western sunbeams, how sweet and pure the air of the river. (Being a poet, "he can see things manifold," including the air of the river.) "All this, with the silence of the hour, sinks into my soul, and I feel happy. I live in pure delight." His friend, the fair young person, who worships his dusky-faced idol, is, nevertheless, on occasion, given to the expression of practical views of things." He cannot see "the pure air of the river," but he has a nose, and the glass is uncomfortably high. In his opinion, "the heat is simply abominable," and "the river stinks." The dark-eyed snob and poet's name is Edgar; his friend is called Ernest. Remarks the former to the latter (on the 8th page), "You think I am joking when I talk of death. I am not. I am convinced I shall die young." The practised novel-reader knows, from past experience, that the gentle creature will die young, but he has a case against the authoress, nevertheless. Not that she should have adopted an old-fashioned device, but because of its taking three volumes to kill off the most unwholesome monster that ever appeared in modern fiction. Edgar, besides being a poet, is a terrible essayist and reviewer. He has quarrelled with his mother, and been dismissed from her presence, "over that bugbear of the world, religion." The maternity—the poet's slang for mother—had chanced upon a manuscript of his which he had left upon the table. It was an essay on the Christian doctrine of the Resurrection, which "denied the whole doctrine, and pointed out its absurdities." He is now alone in the world, for he cannot be a hypocrite, and without Ernest the poor darling would have nobody left to love him, a fact which he thereupon communicates to the young gentleman who had objected to the odour of the Thames, with renewed twinings of arms and additional floods of tears. The sun goes down, and "the glow left behind is of a rich crimson, like the blushing cheek of a bride. At length a bell rings faintly through the evening air. With a start the friends rise, and return to the house, casting a glance of fond farewell on the river, the sunset in the west"—it is a remarkable fact that on that occasion the sun did go down in the west—"and the golden planet of evening going down to rest like a fair nymph on the bosom of love." Of such wretched stuff is this remarkable novel composed. We had marked for extract a number of passages, showing to what lengths in puerility a novel-manufacturer can go, but out of consideration for the reader, we refrain from padding our pages with such contemptible rubbish. The English of the production is as shaky as the style is bald, and there is not enough incident in the entire three volumes to cause one to forget the unskilfulness of the narrator. The hero, aided and abetted by a singularly indulgent match-making aunt gets engaged to the heroine, a lovely creature of seventeen, who has read his poems, and on the instant falls over head and ears in love with the writer. His sternly, unforgiving parent, takes the earliest opportunity of informing the affianced one of her son's atheistic views, and thereupon the match is broken off. He goes abroad and writes more atheistical essays. He returns, accepts the leadership of a band of vulgar sceptics, and delivers a stupendous address in St. James's Hall. He carries coals, stuffed into the legs of an old pair of trousers, and food and so forth, to a family in the last stage of destitution. He dies the death of the fabled swan, with song on his lips. He had aspired to an interment in Westminster Abbey, but not being a Chatterton or a Kirke White—except in respect of his premature demise—another place of burial has to be provided for his remains. We ought to state, perhaps, that he recants on his death-bed, and the proprieties are thereby tardily satisfied. Since the gifted Edgar could not, in view of the exigencies of the story, marry the beautiful and conscientious maiden of his choice, the authoress gives her to Ernest, and the pair make a pilgrimage to the gifted one's grave—on the anniversary of his death. We wish we could, in conclusion, bestow a single word of praise on this novel, but a strict regard for sober truth, and the art which has for its exponents women like George Eliot and Mrs. Lynn Linton, and men like George Meredith, Charles Reade, and Anthony Trollope, compels us to pronounce this the feeblest effort of the kind that has emanated from the press for a very long period.

Baily's Monthly Magazine for August. A. H. Baily and Co., Cornhill.

We owe *Baily* an apology for having so long deferred a notice of this number. "A Brown Study in the Midlands" is one of "Amphion's" happiest efforts. Everyone interested in the breeding of blood-stock will enjoy his description of a day at the Bonehill Stud Farm. We especially commend this paper to the notice of "Amphion's" Irish admirers. The portion of "Frank Raleigh of Watercombe" which appears in the present number will induce readers of this capital story to share our regret that it has not appeared with more regularity in the invariably entertaining pages of *Baily*. There is rather too much preface in "How Tom Stretcher lost the Big Pike," and the climax is somewhat weak, but it is a vivid sketch, nevertheless. "Cricket" is carefully written, as it generally is, and there is fair dealing all round, which is somewhat remarkable, when one remembers the strong Sussex proclivities of the writer. "Yachting and Rowing" will be interesting to those who have not already made themselves acquainted with the aquatic doings of the month; and we have read "Our Van" with enjoyment. The portrait of the month is that of Mr. Cristobal de Murietta. It is like, and the accompanying biography is adequate.

The Games of Lawn Tennis and Badminton. By "CAVEN-DISH." De La Rue and Co.

A timely brochure, well and elegantly done by "the reigning authority." Taking into consideration the increasing popularity of the above-named games, it will be surprising to us if the little book under notice does not have a most extensive sale.

The Pocket-Guide to Go-Bang, same author and publisher, must be read to be realised. The introduction informs us that "the Game of Go-Bang, or Goban, is of Japanese origin. It was

imported into England by some gentlemen travelling in Japan in the summer of 1873." If this statement fail to procure buyers of the above work, we cannot help it. We know nothing about the game of "Go-Bang," but if our readers wish to obtain any knowledge of it, they may do so by investing in the above pretty little trifle.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The fact of the insertion of any letter in these columns does not necessarily imply our concurrence in the views of the writers, nor can we hold ourselves responsible for any opinions that may be expressed therein.]

THE FLYING CAGE TRICK.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.)

SIR,—For the last few weeks I have been reading with great interest the correspondence on the above subject from Mr. De Vere, "Amateur," and "South Kensington." Commencing with the letter which appeared in the issue of July 8, in which "South Kensington" describes the cage as being constructed with "steel bars and sharp edges," and then goes on to say "the performer then, with a quick action of the hands and arms closed the cage, and the little songster was in a moment cut into fragments." Will "South Kensington" kindly write and inform me what prompted him to make such a "false assertion." I bought the "bird and cage trick" I perform with myself (and which is exactly the same in make, shape, and size as that "South Kensington" saw performed) in February last from M. De Vere, and the same bird, I can solemnly assure you that I had then, I am using now, and it is as well and hearty as when I first bought it.

Now to "Amateur's" letter, in which he says (mark the expression Mr. Editor) "I am well acquainted with the manner of doing it." Then he goes on to say, "I believe (you see he is not sure) it is just possible for the trick to be performed without killing the bird. But in every instance it is either killed or badly hurt." Permit me to say that "Amateur" knows absolutely nothing about the trick, and I only wonder he had the audacity to make such an assertion.

It is no use my wearying you with such a long epistle, but in conclusion allow me to say that there are only three professional conjurers performing the real bird and cage trick as invented by Dr. de Buatier, and I suspect it is only out of petty spite and jealousy at their not being able to find out the *crème de l'affaire* that causes "Amateur" and "South Kensington" to cry out. Apologising for trespassing so much upon your valuable space, believe me, Sir, to remain yours ever,

WILHELM D'ARTREY, Prestidigitateur.

P.S.—I enclose my card, and beg to remind Messrs. "Amateur" and "South Kensington" that I shall be performing in the centre of the metropolis in three weeks time, when, if they will honour me with their attendance, I will pledge myself to produce the bird after it has been made disappear, and thus convince them of the great error both have committed.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.)

SIR,—Not being a regular subscriber to your journal, I did not see till to-day your correspondent, "South Kensington's," second lengthy epistle, which appeared on the 29th of July, wherein he still insists that I killed a bird during the performance of my trick entitled "The Flying Cage and Canary." He states he is in no way mixed up with conjurers or conjuring tricks. I should imagine not, or he would be able to conceive of some other and better way of manipulating the illusion of the "Flying Cage and Canary" than that of having sharp-edged steel bars to close up for the purpose of cutting a poor bird to pieces (his idea of the manner I make the canary disappear). I do not know the night "South Kensington" honoured my performances at Cremorne with a visit, but all I can say is that, during the many hundred performances I have given in the Gardens, I have never on any occasion left the stage with a confused appearance. How is it "South Kensington" states that on the occasion of his visit I left the stage without my usual concluding announcement at the termination of the entertainment, when he afterwards adds he had never seen me before that evening? It happens, I never make any concluding announcement after the performance of the "Flying Cage and Canary." My answers to "South Kensington's" last effusion are as follows:—

1st. There is no harm done to the bird in the performance of my illusion of "The Flying Cage and Canary."
2nd. I have never killed or injured a bird in its performance.
3rd. I willingly consent to perform the trick in presence of Mr. Colam, the respected secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and before as many persons as "South Kensington" may think proper to kindly bring and pay for. I would ask him: Did he ever hear of a conjuror who was agreeable to show the *modus operandi* of one of his principal deceptions merely because one of his audience wanted to satisfy his curiosity on the subject?

In conclusion I again state for the second time that a bird was not cut into fragments or hurt in the slightest on the evening of "South Kensington's" visit, nor on any other occasion. If any feathers were picked up in my theatre, they did not belong to a bird that had been so injured or killed. The statement "South Kensington" makes that "a piece of the breast of the mutilated bird was found on a seat near the orchestra," is, with all due deference to "South Kensington," untrue. I have, however, since this correspondence commenced recalled to my recollection the fact that a stuffed bird's head, which I sometimes use in a trick, was picked up in the auditorium one evening about the end of June or the beginning of July, which head had doubtless fallen from some secret receptacle of mine.

Query, did this occur on the evening "South Kensington" visited my theatre, and was not that incident the cause of his absurd supposition that I killed a bird? Farther than this, I can think of nothing likely to account for "South Kensington's" writing to a newspaper, and stating that with a quick action of my hands and arms, I close up a cage flat, and cut a bird into fragments, both of which statements are deliberate falsehoods. Finally, would it not have been more gentlemanly on the part of "South Kensington" to have written me a letter asking if his suppositions were correct, ere he published them in a newspaper as facts?—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Royal Cremorne Gardens, S.W.,

August 10, 1876.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have seen a letter signed "Amateur." In answer let me inform him there are but two amateurs cognisant of the real trick of the "Flying Cage and Canary" as performed by myself. There are many imitations sprung up which are sold at the conjuring trick shops for a few shillings each, and such as I have seen are decidedly rubbish, and not in the least like my trick. Perhaps it is one of those miserable piracies "Amateur" has, that speaking of my trick, causes him to say "he is acquainted with the manner of doing it." Mons. Buatier, the eminent conjuror, tells me he has now performed the trick over four hundred times, and never yet killed or injured a bird, and as but he, Wilhelm D'Artrey (the Belgian illusionist), and the two gentlemen amateurs (the only four persons, besides myself, who know the trick) all state that neither of

them have ever killed or maimed a bird during the performance of the feat (it is an impossibility). It is therefore evident the "Amateur" writing knows nothing whatever about the genuine and original illusion of the "Flying Cage and Canary," the system of which being so good, the secret has never as yet been discovered.

NEW AMUSEMENTS FOR LONDON.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.)

SIR,—In one of the London newspapers of 27th of last November, I made some suggestions in regard to the above in an article bearing my signature. Having been mostly away in the country since, I have not had time to pay attention to the matter. As I have had a good deal of experience, and the suggestions have not had much publicity, I think your readers, and certainly *entrepreneurs* would be interested to know what they were. I do not believe these would interfere with "the theatre." They included the occupation of one theatre for a time by a troupe of girls from sixteen to twenty-three years of age, aided by two or three youths, who should perform ornamental and other pieces, like the *Lady of Lyons* and *Fra Moreale*. I had seen an American troupe of the kind in Asia performing very successfully, and the novelty—all the ticket-takers, &c., were females—was pleasing. The more private Choral Unions might be induced to give public concerts, demi-toilette. Amongst the good influences first-rate voices could be discovered, and the possessors assisted forwards. Another theatre (a small one) would probably pay through the programme always consisting of strong legitimate drama—Shakespearean and other, and pieces like *Belphegor the Mountebank*, and the *Corsican Brothers*; lectures—abroad, young ladies of two or three-and-twenty, address very large houses profitably, the lectures being of a literary character. Entertainments at a couple of halls at the West-End during the season by some of the first-class "Drawing Room Companies," so to speak, which are heard of chiefly in the provinces. Some years ago, I had the good fortune to hear a delightful troupe called the Brouil Family, six or seven sisters playing different musical instruments—Mlle. Bertha, on the violin, inspired the dullest soul. Lastly, conversazioni weekly during the season at some hall or gallery in the West, where persons might drop in from the places of amusements and gaieties during the season, from eight to twelve, full dress being *de rigueur*. *Concordia*, a paper now defunct, aimed some of its fun at one or two of the above; but a number of sensible people welcome suggestions of the kind.—I am, yours obediently,

J. J. GORDON, D.C.L.

A LETTER FROM JOHN WHEAL.—TIMING RACES.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS.)

SIR,—As you have been so good as to publish my last, I beg to offer you the following remarks on timing of races, as quoted by Benson's chronograph, as to the time some of the principal races are run. It is now four years ago since I was in England the first time, for five months during the midst of the racing, and last year I arrived in England in sufficient time to get to Newmarket to see the Two Thousand run for. It will be useless for me to attempt to criticise the timing, as taken and noted in this instance, as the horses start in the opposite way for a spectator to do so with accuracy, and not being provided with an assistant I refrained from doing so, and after the great experience I have had in timing, and found when, on my first visit to England that I was invariably some few seconds faster than quoted by "Benson," I made up my mind to try and ascertain the cause. My first attempt was at Bath, in a race won by Fraulein, the distance, one mile and a half, was quoted by Benson seven seconds worse time than I made it, and, as so much has been written and said on the subject of timing, I trust I am not out of place in naming these facts, amongst others too numerous to mention. Except for the Derby, which shall be noticed hereafter, the first step I took was to ask Mr. Sheldon the starting-post, and having had that pointed out to me, and being in the close vicinity of the stand, I placed myself there, as also in the ring, as near to the winning-post as I could, to stop my watch. At the finish, the mare Fraulein, however, won with such absurd ease that she could have redoubled it. Consequently, no criterion could be formed of her capabilities from the believers in the time test. Provided the time was taken correctly by both of us, the great contrast there was between Benson and myself caused me to be more and more anxious to find out the cause, as, "sine dubio," there was a very great difference. When I say that I made the distance to have been done in 3 min. 10 sec, and that noted by Benson 3 min 17 sec, the latter time, to me, was considered incredible, and, further, for an English animal of such quality and powers. I became further at a loss to explain the cause. Of course, I knew to the eye the pace was slow, as also by my watch, and for ever after I looked in vain for the gentleman holding Benson's chronometer. To the Anglo-Indian, American, or Australian, the above time would, as with me, scarcely be considered creditable—at least, as the time quoted by Benson. I may as well here state, for those interested, that what is considered even time for the one and a half miles is three minutes, or for the one mile two minutes. Had Fraulein won in ten seconds less than this, even, I should have considered it but moderate, and that she and her opponents must have gone slow somewhere; and, again, if we reduce the timing for a distance, even time is about fifteen seconds, so that there was full 100 yards between my time and that taken by Benson at Bath, and again for the "Derby" won by "Galopin." Little or no mistakes should occur—the starting post can be seen well from the stand, as also the winning post; but I believe I am correct that Benson's quoted time was given as 2 min 47 sec. Now I made the first half-mile to be done in exact 1 min (slow) or even time, and the last mile 1 min 44 sec, so that the whole distance by me was two minutes and forty-four seconds—or a difference of about 48 yards—consequently I have come to the conclusion that no true criterion can be taken of the given time by Benson. Neither must outsiders judge the English horses' capabilities by the time test given. Should it fall to my luck to proceed to England again to see your next Derby and principal races, I should only be too pleased to assist Benson. "Anything to oblige Benson;" but there are plenty of gentlemen in England competent to time correctly. It must, however, be understood that simple as it may appear, it requires great practice to time races correctly. Then, again, to time a horse on the training grounds at home, on courses varying, would lead many an owner into great disappointment and loss, as he would find that his Derby candidate would be, likely, three seconds worse over a severe course like Epsom than on a similar gallop at home. Your correspondent having no belief in the time test, some criterion can, however, be ascertained, provided the horses are sent along at a good pace, and on the same description of course.

JOHN WHEAL, Trainer.

Nusserabad, India.

THE Derby Summer Meeting will take place on the 19th and 20th of September, under the Newmarket and Grand National rules. Particulars will be found in an advertisement on another page.

BUGS, FLEAS, MOTHS, BEETLES, and all other insects are destroyed by Keating's Insect Destroying Powder, which is quite harmless to domestic animals. Sold in Tins, 1s. and 2s. 6d. each, by Thomas Keating, St. Paul's-churchyard, London; and all Chemists.—[Advrt.]

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OUR CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

I declare it is something quite deplorable! I cannot absent myself from my post for two or three weeks, in order to recruit my jaded spirits

—“On hill, in dale, forest, or mead,
Or by the beachy margent of the sea,

but abuses spring up in the theatrical world the moment I have turned my back on town. Everything goes wrongly without me. Frauds flourish, immorality increases, art languishes. Ah me! it is something to be the only true seer in an age of false



prophets—the final authority upon all matters dramatic, as of course your humble servant unquestionably is. But sometimes the burden of superior wisdom is heavy to bear—the responsibility of having to correct the errors and nourish the merits of the modern stage, oftentimes harassing.

It is not much to be marvelled at, therefore, that I should have sought a temporary retirement from my stupendous labours, in order to chew the cud of philosophic reflection in sylvan solitudes. But to think that my silence should be the signal for error to walk abroad unchecked, and abuses to show their baleful heads and breathe contagion through the world of art, is a painful consideration, albeit a tribute to my great worth.

I have spoken of abuses taking the opportunity to flourish



Perkyn Middlewick.

during my absence. Not that I have discovered any, but because it is a matter beyond doubt, that, unless I am here to watch over things, they are bound to go wrong.

The best of the theatres have wisely closed their doors, full well aware that for them there can be no real glory or success when I am not by to witness. Most of the distinguished his-

trions who are not fulfilling provincial engagements have gone on tours to "Switzerland," which is the theatrical euphemism for Margate and the like, there to ponder over my teachings and preachings of the season that is past. I pray a blessing upon their meditations. May they come back wiser men and better actors.

Having spent three weeks in a Sleepy Hollow, it seemed to me that, when I beheld, on arriving once more in town, the bills of the Vaudeville Theatre, that, like Rip Van Winkle, I must have slumbered for an age; yet here, unchanged, was the perennial announcement, *Our Boys*. Surely those "boys" have had time to have grown into very old men, yet still they run their even course. Life at the Vaudeville is one long boyhood. This, perhaps, is its great attraction. As we get older, and wearier of the world's worry, we like to witness scenes that remind us of our youth, with its hopes, its dreams, its aspirations—all vain and illusive as they may have proved to most of us. The extraordinary "staying power" of Mr. Byron's brightest comedy is a thing to be wondered at, when one considers that the heat of late has emptied almost every other house.

One fact which the dull season makes more prominently apparent, I am delighted to record—viz., that the abominable "skating-rinks" are doing very poor business. The *demi-monde* has not taken them up as the promoters of the most prominent of these institutions expected and intended it should. I strolled, out of curiosity, into the rink which occupies these premises rendered infamous by the filthy "Museum" of Dr. Kahn, in days gone by; and I was pleased to observe only a very meagre attendance. If morality was not in the ascendant, certainly immorality was not flourishing. Cannot the asphalt pavement of these rinks be taken up and used again for the streets? It is a pity it should be wasted. What a doleful life must be that of a musician in the orchestra of a rink, scraping or blowing away for hours in the vast empty resounding space, the monotony only relieved by the



Miss James and Thorne
at the end of their Season

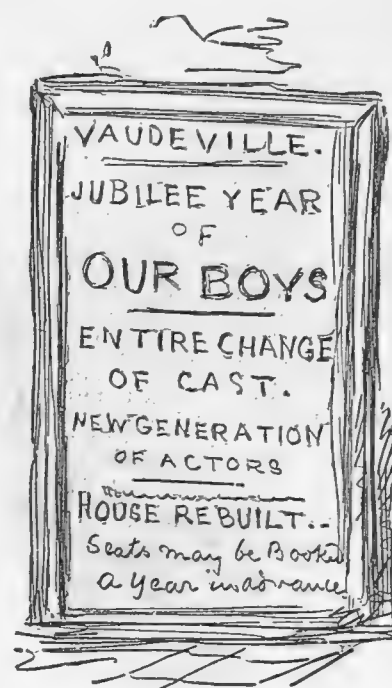
occasional tumbles of the two shopmen and a little boy who compose the entire audience! I would almost rather be the totally unoccupied money-taker at the door. He, at least, can read a newspaper or fall asleep.

There is so little for me to record in the way of theatrical performance at the moment, that, so far as criticism proper is concerned, my office is merely a sinecure. It is in the provinces all the new pieces are being produced. Your critic should be sent to Liverpool, Manchester, Dublin, &c., to report upon the first nights of new productions, such as Mr. Alfred Maltby's farcical comedy of *Bounce*, which I am glad to learn is a thorough success; Mr. Charles Collette's extremely hazardous experiment in multi-form impersonation being perfectly satisfactory.

With the thermometer at boiling point, and the Strand asphalt red-hot, the air from the Wicklow Mountains seemed to blow freshly in my face as I read the magic word, "Glendalough," on the bills of the Adelphi, and I was drawn, like King O'Toole's goose, into the charmed "circle" to see once more the most idyllic of Irish dramas, the ever-fresh *Arrah-na-Pogue*. How Dion Boucicault came to evolve out of his inner consciousness such a poem will ever remain a mystery to me, unless it be some day solved (in the usual manner by some "d-d good-natured friend" or other) through the discovery of some French play in which Brittany shall do the duty of Ireland, and the stone circles of Y-wen-nee take the place of the Seven Churches.

Mr. Williamson acted Shaun the Post in a manly and genuine manner, and had a haunting resemblance to what Dion must have been in the dim days when he was young and handsome. Miss Maggie Moore, albeit not my absolute ideal of "Arrah-of-the-Kiss," was still a pleasant comely Irish colleen, natural and free, and in the gayer scenes quite up to the mark. She sang the "Wearing of the Green" with true effect, and danced her share of the jig like a light-footed daughter of the sod.

Shiel Barry, the best "Sick Irishman" on the stage, acted Feeny so realistically that I could almost smell the poteen on his breath and the turf smoke on his clothes. His mimic villainy was greeted with howls of hatred from the gallery. Can I say more in his praise. The mounting of the piece was good, but I must ask why or wherefore did the officers at the court-martial keep their



hats on during the trial, and take them off for the sentence? Since the military custom is exactly what the old woman called "varsy-worsey," the presiding officer's hat taking the place of a civil judge's black cap. A few little trifles such as this, and the fact that all the other Irish characters, except those I have mentioned, were not a bit like Irish people, are the only points to be captious over in a bright and exhilarating performance, which, were the weather anything below fever heat, ought to "draw" like a team of steam-engines, or a troupe of American evangelists.

At the Globe, there is also an attempt to represent Irish drama, but it is only an attempt, so that I would rather make no particular comment upon it. To those who know Ireland and the Irish as they really are, conventionally-false pictures of the country and the people are harrowing in the extreme. *Kathleen Mavourneen* is followed by an objectionable short piece called *Dancing Dolls*. One would have thought the gallant lessee of the Globe had been taught a sufficiently severe lesson regarding matters of this sort. It seems not, however.



The new Unpatented Glaciarium
Theatre Stall.

THAMES DACE are now being caught in considerable quantities in punt-fishing at Richmond, Twickenham and Teddington, and are exceedingly fine this season. Some idea may be formed of the size they are taken, from the fact that the standard according to the by-laws of the fishery is 6in, and they are caught principally from 7in to 10in in length. There is a difficulty in getting them small enough for jack fishing. During the examination of the wells of the punts a few days since by the river keepers, there were several instances of five dozen good dace being caught in two hours by two rods.

CRICKET, AQUATICS, AND ATHLETICS.

CANTERBURY week of 1876 will long be remembered, not only for the unexceptionally fine weather, which continued all through the meeting, but also from the fact that six days' play did not prove sufficient to finish two matches. It may be remembered that the first match of the week—viz., Kent and Gloucestershire v. England—ended in a draw. When the time was called on Saturday last, the second match—viz., Kent v. Gentlemen of the Marylebone Club—was not completed, so great had been the scoring on either side. Kent went in first, and continued in possession of the wickets until no less than 473 runs had been accumulated, Lord Harris playing in splendid form for 154. Young George Hearne showed excellent cricket in his 57 (not out). It is rather remarkable that every one scored double figures except Mr. F. Penn (who can generally be relied on), and on this occasion he made a "duck." Against this array of figures, Marylebone could only succeed in amassing 144, Mr. L. S. Howell being top scorer with 34. Of course, "the Club" had to follow on, and it was very soon made evident that Mr. W. G. meant business, and when the stumps were drawn on Friday evening he had obtained no less than 133 out of 215, for four wickets. On the last day of the week the match, as above stated, ended in a draw, eight wickets only of the M.C.C. having fallen for 557 runs. Mr. W. G. Grace scored no less than 344, a feat hitherto unrivalled, beating as it does Mr. Ward's great score. This is the second time this season that "the champion" has exceeded 300; and although Mr. Tylecote's 404 in a little tin-pot school match stands as the highest score on record, I think no one would be foolish enough to compare the two performances, as Mr. Grace's 344 were obtained when opposed to a bona fide county eleven, and that, too, by no means a weak one.

On Saturday those who went to the Oval to see the finish of the match between Surrey and Middlesex had a rare treat, the ultimate result being a "tie." Middlesex made 138 in their first innings, Burgess and Mr. Turner playing well for 44 and 30 respectively. Surrey in their first attempt scored 215, Mr. Read playing excellently for 94, and was well backed up by Mr. Avory and Barratt, both of whom made 31. Middlesex in their second venture scored 322, of which Mr. R. D. Walker made 104 in his own peculiar style, and Mr. H. R. Webbe 52 by some very fine hitting, whilst Mr. Buller obtained 32, Mr. I. D. Walker 25, Mr. V. E. Walker 23, and Mr. Turner 41 (not out). Everyone, by-the-by, was pleased to see Mr. V. E. Walker once more taking part in a match of some calibre, and everyone was gratified in seeing him not only obtain wickets, but also to make a very respectable score. Surrey required 246 to win, of which they obtained 245, the match thus ending in a "tie." Barratt played a cool, slashing innings of 67, and was last man out. Jupp scored 43, Mr. Avory 42, and Mr. Read 41. Unless my memory deceives me, this is the second tie match between Surrey and Middlesex within a few years. Nottinghamshire have suffered a ten wickets beating at the hands of Gloucestershire, and Sussex have amply avenged their defeat by Surrey last week, inasmuch as they in the return match won by eight wickets. Middlesex and Yorkshire have played a draw, the latter scoring 208 and 262, while Middlesex obtained 132 and 234 for five wickets, Mr. I. D. Walker making 51 and 94.

The long talked of match between W. Perkins, of Camberwell, and W. Howse, of Hoxton, distance fifty miles for £100, came off on Monday last, at the Lillie-bridge Grounds, Brompton. The reader will find an account of it upon another page. At the end of the twenty-fourth mile, Perkins gave up, being then nearly three-quarters of a mile behind Howse, the latter, however, was compelled to complete his task, as Perkins's backer had a few bets on what time one of the men would finish in!!

On Monday next, Trickett and Lumsden row from Putney to Mortlake, for the championship and a stake of £200, in addition to a bet of £200. Under Harry Kelly's watchful care, our Australian cousin has made wonderful progress, and the way he manages to get his long sculls through the water is a caution. Lumsden does his work like a thorough stayer, and rows in far better form than has been exhibited by any of the Northern school for some time, but it strikes me that he is flying at rather too high a game, and I shall fully expect to see TRICKETT achieve another comparatively easy victory. EXON.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MISS ADA CAVENDISH commences her autumn tour at Scarborough on the 28th inst.

THE race for schooners and yawls for the prizes, value £100, given by the Southampton Yacht Club, was sailed on Monday. The Corinne (schooner) took the first prize of £70, and the Neptune (yawl) the second prize of £30. The two other matches were won respectively by the Vanessa and Bayonette.

F. G. writes to the following effect:—"I have been in cricket, off and on, for upwards of a third of a century, and have taken notes of some things, perhaps, which have escaped general observation. In the match 'Kent v. Marylebone,' 502 overs were bowled; ergo, the field was changed 502 times. Query, why should not five-ball be substituted for four-ball overs? We don't want 502 letters on the subject; but I would humbly suggest that if this question was referred to Mr. Gilbert Grace; Shaw, the Nottingham bowler; and to Mr. V. E. Walker, for their opinion, and they, or the majority of them, said 'Yes' to the change, the Marylebone Club would be foolish to listen to any one who said 'No,' and might, with general approval, alter the law accordingly. In one-day matches—in many of which some of the best professionals and amateurs take part—no one growls at five-ball overs as detrimental to the game or exhaustive to the bowler."

MR. SIMS REEVES has addressed a somewhat remarkable letter to Dr. Brown, Surgeon to the Royal Society of Musicians, upon the subject of alcohol;—he says "It is impossible to tell how much mischief may have been done by the absurd accounts of the variety of beverages considered indispensable to our former great singers. The notion of drinking so many bottles of beer to create a voice, is as obsolete as the idea that no man is hospitable who allows his guest to go home sober. By long experience I find it much better to do without stimulants entirely. A glycerine lozenge is preferable. I formerly used beef-tea, but that was too heavy. If one could limit oneself to a table-spoonful at a time the latter might be the best, but a large draught clogs the throat, and producing more saliva, necessarily induces the desire to swallow often."

THE final rehearsal, previous to the public performance, of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, took place at Bayreuth in the presence of King Ludwig and a crowded audience. An attempt had been made to secure privacy for the rehearsal, but on the arrival of the king this was abandoned, and tickets of admission were publicly sold. A correspondent says:—"As for the performance, for such it may be called, nothing could have been finer than the orchestra, and the stage effects were magnificent." *Siegfried*, the third part of Wagner's operatic tetralogy, was performed on Wednesday. The representation lasted five hours and a half, allowing for two intervals of one hour each. The audience again manifested the greatest enthusiasm. The scene in which the dialogue between Siegfried and the Waldvögelin occurs, produced a marked impression, as did also the close of the first act, where Siegfried

forges his sword. The closing scene, where Brunhilde is aroused from her sleep on the fiery rock, had an equally striking effect.

THE Kingston-on-Thames Amateur Regatta, whose executive had pitched their tent on Messenger's Island, and had secured the aid of the band of the Coldstream Guards, could not fail to be successful, although the thermometer pointed to 90 Fahrenheit in the shade, as was the case on Saturday afternoon. Englishmen and Englishwomen, however, are careless as to the elements when it is a question of sport, and a good afternoon's rowing was witnessed. Business commenced with the Junior Sculls, which were carried off by J. F. Bucknill (R.E.), and the Senior Sculls by A. H. Grove (L.R.C.). The Thames Rowing Club took the Senior Fours, being represented by W. B. Giles, G. C. Gordon, J. Hastie, and J. A. M. Robertson; and the Junior Fours were won by the Kingston R.C., in the persons of V. Wintle, H. S. Till, J. A. Ross, G. E. Way (stroke), and W. Farrar (cox). The Waldegrave Rowing Club took the pairs (J. G. Jones and C. T. Russell), and there were also eight-oared races for competitors and non-competitors, which were ably contested.

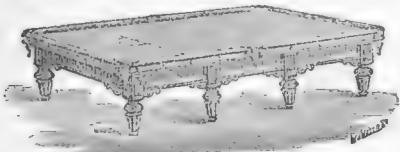
A NEW WAY TO ROW A BOAT.—No one that has rowed much on any of our many boating courses but has been warned by a sharp call of "Look out ahead!" and glanced hastily over his shoulder to find a collision imminent—a collision to be avoided only by holding "hard all." Every sportsman has felt that, in rowing, his boat was wrong end foremost, and, to see where he was going, in many an excursion has resorted to pushing or paddling, at the expense of a great loss of power. Theo. Winthrop has said that "it took three thousand years to learn that we had been threading our needle at the wrong end;" hence the sewing machine.

DANGEROUS FISH.—There was lately found on the banks of the Isis, a dead grebe, which had been choked in attempting to swallow a "miller's thumb" (*Cottus gobio*). This fish has little spine-like processes on the side of the head, which had stuck in the bird's throat, and choked the windpipe. There is a case on record where a poor fisherman was killed by another species of *Cottus*, in attempting to bite off its head. The fish, however, gave a struggle, and slipped down his throat, and, expanding his spines at the side of the head, managed to immovably fix itself in the larynx, thus killing the man by suffocation.

A BITCH NURSING DUCKS.—In one of our American contemporaries a correspondent notes a very singular case of a hen which was set on ducks' eggs, and in due time hatched seven ducklings; being weak they were taken from her for the first day, and when at night Swan put them under the hen, she refused to receive them. And now comes the strange part of this story: A small black bitch has taken the ducks, is very fond of them, growls if any one touches them, and whines piteously if one is taken from her. The little ducks seem to thrive with their strange mother. Strange if true, and the correspondent appends name.

ROBINSON CRUSOE'S ISLAND.—In the course of its cruise the Challenger visited Robinson Crusoe's island. On the island of Juan Fernandez was seen a tablet bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Alexander Selkirk, native of Largo, in the county of Fife, Scotland, who was on this island in complete solitude for four years and four months. He was landed from the Cinque Ports gally A.D. 1704, and was taken off by The Duke, privateer, 12th February, 1709. He died lieutenant of the Weymouth, A.D. 1723, aged 47 years. This tablet near Selkirk's Lookout was erected by Commodore Parvell and officers of H.M.S. Topaz, A.D. 1868; Robinson Crusoe's Island." It being affirmed that the Falkland Islands were in course of elevation, the Challenger called there January 23, 1876, and, after spending a fortnight in observations, the scientific staff found the level to be the same as in Ross's time.

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The following races close to Mr. Shaw, Ayr; Mr. R. Johnson, York; Messrs. Weatherby, London; Messrs. Pratt and Barbrook, London; or Mr. T. Lawley, London, on Thursday, 24th August.

FIRST DAY.

The **NURSERY PLATE** of 250 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each for starters, for two-year-olds; colts 8st 10lb, fillies and geldings 8st 7lb; the winner of any race before starting value 50 sovs to carry 4lb, of two of 50 sovs, or one of 100 sovs, 7lb, of two of 100 sovs, or one of 200 sovs, 12lb extra; maidens at the time of starting allowed 5lb; the second horse to receive £30, the third £20, out of the plate; one owner allowed to start any number of horses; entrance 3 sovs; about 6 furlongs.

The **WELTER CUP** of 100 sovs, added to a Handicap of 5 sovs each for starters; the second to receive 20 sovs out of the stakes, third to save his stake; gentlemen riders, professionals 5lb extra; any winner after publication of the weights () 5lb extra; entrance 2 sovs; once round.

The **WESTERN HUNTERS' STAKES** of 5 sovs each, 2 ft, with 50 sovs added, for *bona fide* hunters qualified under the Grand National Rules, which have been regularly and fairly hunted with any established pack of hounds during season 1875-76; four-year-olds 1st, five 1st 5lb, six and aged 1st 7lb; winners of 50 sovs once 7lb, twice, or 100 sovs, 14lb extra; to be ridden by persons who have never ridden for hire; two miles on the flat.

SECOND DAY.

The **JUVENILE STAKES** of 100 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 10 sovs each for starters, for two-year-olds; colts 8st 10lb, fillies and geldings 8st 7lb; winners once before starting to carry 5lb, twice 10lb, thrice, or the Nursery Plate on the first day, 14lb extra; maidens at the time of starting allowed 5lb; one owner allowed to start any number of horses; entrance 2 sovs; half a mile.

A **FREE HANDICAP** of 5 sovs each, in case of acceptance, with 60 sovs added; any winner after publication of the weights to carry 7lb, if of £100 10lb extra; entrance 1 sov; once round.

Acceptances to be declared to the Secretary only by five p.m. the evening before running.

The **AYRSHIRE HANDICAP** of 500 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 20 sovs each, h ft. and 3 only, to the Fund, if declared to Messrs. Weatherby only by noon on September, for three-year-olds and upwards; the winner of any handicap of 100 sovs after the weights are published 7lb, of two of that value, or one of 300 sovs, 12lb extra; the second horse to receive 50 sovs, and the third 20 sovs, out of the stakes; about 1 mile 3 furlongs.

The **HUNTERS' YEOMANRY**, and **VOLUNTEER PLATE** of 50 sovs, added to a Sweepstakes of 3 sovs each, 1 ft. for horses qualified under the Grand National Rules, *bona fide* and regularly hunted with any established pack of hounds in Scotland during season 1875-76, or drilled in any Yeomanry or Mounted Volunteer Corps in Scotland for at least four days in 1876; four-year-olds 1st, five 1st 5lb, six and aged 1st 7lb; winners of any race value 20 sovs 3lb extra, twice, or once of 50 sovs 7lb, twice of 50 sovs, once of 100 sovs, or any hunters race at this meeting, 12lb, thrice of 50 sovs or twice of 100 sovs, 16lb extra; to be ridden by persons who have never ridden for hire; forfeits to go to the second horse; third horse to save his stake; one owner allowed to start any number of horses; two miles.

THIRD DAY.

The **AYR GOLD CUP** (Handicap) of 300 sovs, by subscription of 10 sovs each, p.p., payable by the nominators; winners after publication of the weights () to carry 5lb extra, if of £100 10lb, or of the Ayrshire Handicap 14lb extra; once round and a distance (about one and a quarter miles).

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The Earl of EGLINTON and WINTON.
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Ayr, 10th August, 1876.

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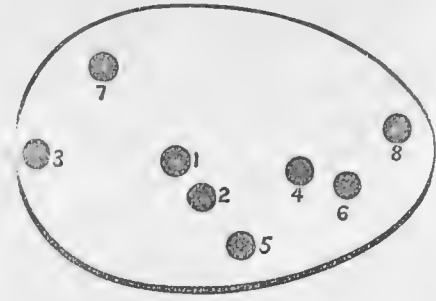
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its purity at so moderate a price. Shipped direct in
original 1 doz. cases, by Guy Pèrè et Fils.—CADIZ
WINE COMPANY, 8, Duke-street, St. James's, S.W.
Established 1847.

ST. EMILION CLARET, two years in
bottle, very soft and totally devoid of any ten-
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CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE is warranted to cleanse
the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause
arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin and Blood
Diseases, its effects are marvellous. In bottles, 2s. 6d.
each, and in cases (containing six times the quantity)
11s. each, of all Chemists. Sent to any address, for
30 or 132 stamps, by the Proprietor, F. J. CLARKE,
Chemist, Apothecaries' Hall, Lincoln.

NEW MUSIC.

JOLLY SONGS FOR GENTLEMEN.

Published by HUTCHINGS and ROMER,
9, Conduit-street, Regent-street, W.
John Peel. Hunting Song. Price 3s. By D. Pentland.
Four Jolly Smiths. Price 3s. By H. Leslie.
A Wet Sheet and a Flowing Sea. Price 3s. By I.
Gibson.
When Joan's Ale was new. Price 3s. By M. Kiko
(as sung at the Oxford and Cambridge Universities).
Nancy o' Bristol. Price 4s. J. L. Roedel.
Hear the Wild Wind Blow. Price 4s. Tito Mattei.
With My Dog and My Gun. Price 2s. 6d. Bishop.

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FOR LADIES.
Published by HUTCHINGS and ROMER,
9, Conduit-street, Regent-street, W.
Who's That Tapping at the Garden Gate. Price 3s.
There's No One There (sequel to above). Price 3s.
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The Timid Little Thing. Price 3s. Collier.
My Love He is a Sailor. Price 3s. Faise.
The Morning Call. Price 3s. Collier.

THERE'S AN ANGEL IN THE
FLAME. Price 4s. A new song by Faise, which
is likely to be more popular than his celebrated song,
"Never Mind the Rest," in two keys, C and E.
All the above songs can be had of any Music-seller in
the United Kingdom or the Colonies. Wholesale
Warehouse, 10 and 11, Little Marlborough-street,
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CRAMER'S THREE-YEARS'
SYSTEM OF HIRING PIANOFORTES,
Harps, Harmoniums, Church, Chamber, and
American Organs, originated by them, has
been partially adopted and is advertised by
other firms, but is carried out on a thoroughly
large and liberal scale only by themselves.
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NEW BOOKS.

WALTER WHITE'S NEW BOOK.
HOLIDAYS IN TYROL: Kufstein,
Klobenstein, and Paneveggio. By WALTER
WHITE. Large crown 8vo, 14s.

THE CRUISE OF THE "WIDGEON:" 700
Miles in a 10-ton Yawl, from Swangoe to Hamburg,
through the Dutch Canals and the Zuider Zee, German
Ocean, and the River Elbe. By CHARLES E.
ROBINSON, B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.
With Four Illustrations, drawn on Wood by the
Author. Crown 8vo, 9s.

CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, Piccadilly.

DERBY SUMMER MEETING, 1876.

WILL TAKE PLACE
TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY, Sept. 19th and 20th.

Under the Newmarket and Grand National Rules.

*. The following stakes close on Tuesday, August
22nd, to Messrs. WEATHERLY, London; Messrs.
PRATT and BARBROOK, 28, Conduit-street, Lon-
don; Mr. R. JOHNSON, York; and Mr. J. BRAD-
FIELD, Clerk of the Course, Nottingham; Mr. R.
JOHNSON, York, Judge; Messrs. JOHNSON, Handi-
cappers.

FIRST DAY.

The MIDLAND COUNTIES HANDICAP, with
150 sovs added to a Handicap Sweepstakes of 10 sovs
each for starters. The winner of any race of the value
of 100 sovs, 4lbs; of 200 sovs, 7lbs; and of 300 sovs
or more, 10lbs extra; the second horse to save his stake.
Entrance 3 sovs, which is the only liability for non-
starters. One mile and a quarter.

Lord Wilton	Mr. E. Etches
Duke of Hamilton	" S. Leitch
Duke of Argyll	" J. Bradfield
Duke of Devon	" G. Crook
Duke of Kent	Marquis of Anglesey
Duke of Norfolk	Lord Petersham
Duke of Northumberland	Mr. C. Blanton
Duke of Portland	" Gomm
Duke of Somerset	" J. Core
Duke of Westmoreland	" C. J. Langland
Duke of York	Lord Aylesford

To Close August 22nd.

SECOND DAY.

The RAWDON HANDICAP; of 10 sovs each,
for starters, with 50 sovs added; for three-year olds and
upwards. A winner of any race after the publication of
the weights value 100 sovs, to carry 4lbs; if of 200
sovs, 7lbs; if of 300 sovs, 10lbs extra. Any number of
horses the property of the same owner may start for
this race. Entrance 2 sovs, which is the only liability
for non-starters. Six furlongs.

Mr. Whitaker

STEWARDS.

DUKE OF HAMILTON,	EARL OF AYLESFORD,
MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY,	Lord PETERSHAM,
MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON,	SIR GEO. CHETWYND,
EARL OF STAMFORD AND	H. SAVILE,
WARRINGTON.	G. PAYNE.

FIRST DAY.

The following Stakes will Close September 5th:—
The CHATSWORTH STAKES, £50 added, One
Mile.
The HURDLE HANDICAP, £50 added, Two Miles.
ELVASTON CASTLE STAKES for Hunters, £50
added, Two Miles on the flat.

The following Close evening before running.
The TRIAL STAKES, £50 added, Six Furlongs.
The SELLING STAKES, £50 added, Five Furlongs.

SECOND DAY.

The following Stakes will close September 5th:—
The HARRINGTON STAKES, £100 added, One
Mile.
MAIDEN PLATE, for two-year olds, £50 added,
Half-a-mile.
HURDLE HANDICAP, £50 added, One-and-a-half
Miles.

DONINGTON STAKES for Hunters, £50 added,
Two Miles over hurdles.
The following Close evening before running.

ALL-AGED SELLING PLATE of £50, Five Fur-
longs.
SELLING STAKES for two-year olds, £50 added,
Half-mile.

"There should be a better reason for the race of
depositors than a fluctuating rate of 2 or 3 per cent."—
Investors' Guardian.

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44, Lombard-st.; and 277 and 279, Regent-st.
Established 1869, receives Deposits. On Demand, 5
per cent. Subject to Notice, 10 per cent. Opens Cur-
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that ensures a high rate of interest with perfect security.
The Directors have never re-discounted, or re-hypothe-
cated any of the securities. TO BORROWERS.—It offers
pre-eminent advantages for prompt advances on leases,
reversions, policies, trade stocks, farm produce, war-
rants, and furniture, without removal, publicity, sureties,
or fees.
JAMES PRYOR, Manager.

TATTERSALL'S, ALBERT GATE,
HYDE-PARK.
SALES BY AUCTION EVERY MONDAY.
Horses on view Saturday.

MESSRS. TATTERSALL have re-
ceived instructions from the Earl of Rosebery
to OFFER for SALE at NEWMARKET, on the
WEDNESDAY in the SECOND OCTOBER MEET-
ING (the day after the Cesarewitch), his ENTIRE
STUD of RACE HORSES in TRAINING.

NOTICE.—YORK AUGUST MEETING.

MESSRS. TATTERSALL will hold
their usual SALES of THOROUGH BRED
STOCK in Nelson's Yard, Museum-street, York, on
Wednesday, August 23, 1876.
For loose boxes apply to Mr. Mathews, Museum-
street Stables, York.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a Gentleman:

A BROWN YEARLING GELDING, by Cape Fly-
away, out of All's Well (dam of Honesty and other win-
ners) by The Cure; engaged in the Seaton Dalavall
Stakes at Newcastle, 1877, and the Hardwicke stakes,
Stockton, 1877.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a Gentleman:

GRAND DUCHESS, 5 yrs old, by Lozenge, out of
Ladylike (Birthright's dam), by Newminster, out of
Zuleika, by Muley Moloch, out of Corumba, by Filho
da Puta; covered by Martyrdom.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a Gentleman:

THE TUNSTALL MAID, by Touchstone, her dam
by Tomboy, out of Tesane, by Whisker, covered by The
Clown.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a gentleman:

MARLBOROUGH, a bay, with black points, 8 yrs
old, 16 hands 1 inch, by Moulsey, out of Miss Living-
stone (dam of Blenheim, Malplaquet, &c.), by The Fly-
ing Dutchman; would make an excellent steeple-
chaser.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
following YEARLINGS, the property of a Gentle-
man:

ASTEER, a Chestnut Colt, by The Baron, out of
Lambda (dam of Nu, Xi, Omega, &c.), foaled April
4th; no engagements.

NUX, a Bay Filly, by The Baron, out of Pi, by
Defender, out of Lambda (first foal, foaled April 6th);
no engagements.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd.

A TWO-YEAR-OLD FILLY, by Cathedral, out
of Queen of York (own sister to St. Helens); unbroke.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a gentleman:

1. A BAY ENTIRE HORSE, by Young Mel-
bourne, dam by Mundig—Filho da Puta—Stave-
ley—Tickle Toby—Ajax—Kolla—Sedley
Arabian; has proved himself an extraordinary
hunter.
2. A BAY GELDING, by Tuffhunter, dam by
Young Melbourne; has been hunted, very fast;
a natural jumper and snaffle horse.
3. A BAY FILLY (sister to the above), by Tuff-
hunter; has been bitted but not backed.
4. A BAY YEARLING COLT, by Rowsham (by
King Tom, out of Mentmore Lass), his dam by
Y. Melbourne—Medora, &c.; he is an exceed-
ingly racing-like colt.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
following MARES and FOALS, the property of a
Nobleman:

1. A BAY MARE, by The Castor (the dam of Lady
Sykes, Catchpole, and Little Flo), her dam
Sister of The Lawyer's dam, by Hampton,
Cervantes, Slamakin, by Smasher (half-bred);
served by Loiterer, May 6th, 1876.
2. CASTANET, a Chestnut Mare (foaled in 1864),
by Fandango, out of Lady Sykes, Catchpole,
and Little Flo's dam, by The Castor, her dam,
sister to The Lawyer's dam, by Hampton,
Cervantes, Slamakin, by Smasher (half-bred);
served by Loiterer, April 17th, 1876.
3. A BAY MARE (the dam of Snowstorm and
Snowflake), by Professor Buck, dam by Darda-
nelles, grandam Miss Horner, by Filho da Puta,
great grandam, Jennie Horner, by Golumpus
(half-bred); served by Loiterer, May 30th, 1876.

Also, a BAY COLT FOAL, by Loiterer (foaled
April 29th, 1876).

4. A BROWN MARE, 4 years old, by Ceylon, her
dam, Carnizette, by Knight of Kars; her dam,
Tartlet, by Birdcatcher, great grandam, by Den
John, out of Lollypop (Sweetmeat's dam),
served by Loiterer, May 16th, 1876.
5. A BROWN MARE (foaled 1870), by Notting-
ham, out of Fern (Rama's dam), by Fernhill;
served by Loiterer, May 1st, 1876.

Also, a BROWN FILLY FOAL, by Cape Flyaway
(foaled February 22nd, 1876).

6. CANADA, a Bay Mare, by Fandango, out of
America, by St. Lawrence, grandam, Kitten,
by Bay Middleton, out of Pussy (winner of the
Oaks), by Pollio; served by Syrian, June 18th,
1876.

Also, a BAY COLT, by Moulsey (foaled May 21st,
1876).

The above mares and foals to be seen at the Museum-
street Stables during the race week.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd,
without reserve, the following BROOD MARES, &c.,
the property of a gentleman:

1. HABET, by Gladiateur, out of Mrs. Rarey, by
Faugh-a-Ballagh, covered by Martyrdom.
2. A BROWN FILLY FOAL, by Martyrdom, out
of Habet.
3. PETRA (h.-b.), by Tadmor; winner of many
races; had a foal this year, and covered by
Martyrdom.
4. THE THANE (dam of Chieftain), by Stockwell;
covered by Knight of the Garter.
5. JOLLITY, by Chanticleer, out of Jocose (Macar-
oni's dam); covered by Knight of the Garter.
6. BAREGE, by Faugh-a-Ballagh, out of Delaine,
by Bay Middleton, grandam by Velocipede;
winner of many races; served by Knight of the
Garter.
7. SUNBEAM (dam of Sunshine, Gladiolus, Merry
Sunshine, &c.), by Chanticleer, out of Sunflower,
by Bay Middleton; served by Knight of the
Garter.
8. THE SHREW, by Ratanaplan, out of Amazon, by
Touchstone—Grace Darling, by Defence; not
covered this year.

YORK.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of Major Staplyton:

1. MY MARY, by Idle Boy, out of Alexina, and
covered by Syrian.
2. RAFFLE (dam of Blue Ruin), by Alarm, out of
The Swede, and covered by Blue Mantle.

YORK.

BY MESSRS. TATTERSALL, at
YORK, on WEDNESDAY, August 23rd, the
property of a Gentleman:

A CHESTNUT YEARLING FILLY, by Restitu-
tion, out of Grace Darling.

YORK AUGUST RACES, 1876.

MR. WALKER begs to give notice
that he will hold his ANNUAL SALE of
Blood Stock, Hunters, Hacks, and Harness HORSES,
at York, during the Races, August 22nd, 23rd, and
24th, 1876.

Entries should be forwarded early.
New-street, York, August 12th, 1876.

YORK AUGUST RACES.

SECOND DAY.

MR. WALKER will include in his
SALE of HORSES at YORK, on WED-
NESDAY, August 23rd, the following, the property of
George Denison, Esq., well known with the Y. and A.
and Lord Middleton's.

EMPEROR, chestnut horse by Fugleman, dam by
Greylock, aged, about 16 h.h.; up to 16st.
SULTAN, chestnut horse by Orpheus, dam by
Canute, 6 yrs, about 16 h.h.; up to 16st.

May be seen at owner's stables the day prior to sale
York, August 10th, 1876.

ALDRIDGE'S.—JOB HORSES.—To

Gentlemen requiring strong Brougham or
Match Carriage Horses, and Country Jobmasters
in search of seasoned working horses.—Messrs. W.
and S. FREEMAN, proprietors of Aldridge's, St.
Martin's-lane, London, will now INCLUDE in each
of their WEDNESDAY'S SALES about FIFTY
seasoned BROUGHAM, PHAETON, and CAR-
RIAGE HORSES, which are drafted from the
stocks of Messrs. Wimbush and Co., Messrs. East and
Co., Messrs. Withers and Co., Messrs. Dyer and
Pearl, Mr. Thos. Rice, and all the principal jobmasters
in London, according to annual custom. These horses
are in actual work up to within a few days of being
sent for sale, and should be sought after by the country
trade especially, their condition rendering them fit for
immediate working purposes.
Full particulars at Aldridge's.
W. and S. FREEMAN, Proprietors.

ALDRIDGE'S, St. Martin's-lane.—

JOB HORSES.—On Wednesday, August 23rd,
will be SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the property of
Messrs. Newman and Co., of Regent-street, THIRTY
BROUGHAM and LANDAU HORSES, in accor-
dance with their annual custom at the termination of the
London season.
On view day before and morning of sale.
W. and S. FREEMAN, Proprietors.

HORSES.—MR. F. MOSTYN, 19,
Green Street, Park Lane, has always on sale
a number of high-stepping Horses, suitable to all
purposes.

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MR. RYMILL will SELL by PUBLIC
AUCTION, every TUESDAY and FRIDAY,
commencing at Eleven o'Clock, ONE HUNDRED AND
SIXTY HORSES, suitable for professional gentlemen,
tradesmen, and cab proprietors, and others; active young
cart and van horses for town and agricultural work; also
a large assortment of carriages, carts, harness, &c.

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STOCK-BREEDERS' MEDICINE-CHESTS,
for all DISORDERS in HORSES, CATTLE,
and SHEEP.

Established 1834.
Prices £2 10s. 6d. and £6 6s. each.
Carriage paid.
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LONDON, W.

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MEAT FIBRINE DOG CAKES.

Our success has caused a number of counterfeit imita-
tions to be made of highly dangerous and unwholesome
ingredients. They are sold by unprincipled tradesmen
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makers allow them.

Please observe that every cake is stamped
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Without which none are genuine.
Address—
Spratt's Patent, Henry-street, Bermondsey-street, S.E.

ONE SHILLING, carriage-free, 15
stamps, the AMERICAN MUSICAL ORGAN
(Patented); far surpasses any yet produced. They are
suitable for hymns, dance, or song. Made entirely by
steam machinery. Thousands have been sold in America.
Testimonials free.

ONE SHILLING, post-free, 15 stamps,
The AMERICAN POCKET TIMEPIECE
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strong metal case, steel works, balanced action, en-
amelled dial, glass dome. Each denotes correct time,
and is warranted for two years. CAUTION.—To be pro-
cured only from the undersigned. All orders executed
by return post.—B. PILLINGER, 7, Church-road,
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"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which
govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by
a careful application of the fine properties of well-
selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast
tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may
save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judi-
cious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may
be gradually built up until strong enough to resist
every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle malades
are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is
a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by
keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a
properly nourished frame."—See article in the *Civil
Service Gazette*.

Made simply with boiling water or milk.
Sold only in packets (tins for abroad), labelled,
JAMES EPPS and CO.,
Homoeopathic Chemists,
48, Threadneedle-street; and 170, Piccadilly;
Works, Euston-road and Camden Town, London.
Makers of Epps's Glycerine Jujubes (throat irritation).

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Andrew's-hill, Doctors' Commons, in the Parish of
St. Ann, in the City of London, and Published by
G. MADDICK, Jun., at 148, Strand, in the Parish of
St. Clement Danes, London.—SATURDAY, August 19
1876.

THE LATE LIVERPOOL ANNUAL GRAND INTERNATIONAL TROTTING MEETING.

WE extract the following description from a contemporary dealing with the races, of which we last week published a detailed report. "There was another large attendance at Aintree, on Tuesday last, although there was a considerable falling-off compared with Monday, while the sport was equally good; and had it not been for two or three suspicious transactions of roping, the meeting gave every promise of being the most successful ever

brought off over the same ground. The card contained two formidable looking handicaps, but the Grand International Stakes was the event of the day, and evoked a large amount of interest and excitement in the trotting world, containing as it did, with the exception of Steel Grey, nearly all the best known trotters of this country. The handicap alluded to brought a large held, no less than sixteen of those coloured on the card going to the post, some of whom were under saddle and the remainder driven in sulkeys. Salvini, who had trotted more than respectably on the opening day, landed the first money by winning three heats out of five, and when his number was hoisted on the telegraph-board as the

winner, both horse and driver (Mr. Webling) came in for such an ovation as has rarely been seen or heard of at a trotting meeting, and it is only fair to state that he well deserved it all for the plucky manner in which he has gone into the sport, and in bringing such a grand specimen of a trotter to this country. Lady, from the curious manner in which she went up and down in the betting in almost every succeeding heat, gave cause to many to believe that she was a dead one on two or three occasions, but as it is not my province to grumble, it is as well to say no more about her, and, as she failed to beat a very ragged lot in the Aintree Stakes, it is just possible there might have been something wrong



A STORM IN THE MOUNTAINS.

with her. Previous to quitting my remarks on the International Stakes I must mention the fact that the driving of Tom by M'Lachlan was of the most scandalous and unwarrantable character, as in the fourth heat, when just opposite the Stand, he deliberately pulled his horse to the right for the purpose of crossing and preventing Salvini winning, and so determined was he bent on doing this that he did not miss the opportunity of trying it on a second time; and had not Mr. Webling been very cool and persevering, there is little doubt but that it would have lost him the

stakes; and so satisfied were the stewards as to his (M'Lachlan's) intentions that they instantly disqualified him from riding at their meeting again. Stiff'un came in first for the Aintree Stakes, but, having galloped a long distance, he was rightly disqualified, and the race awarded to Polly Pork. The meeting altogether has been a great success, and every praise is due to all the officials engaged. Mr. David Allen, who filled the duties of judge, gave every satisfaction, his decisions being prompt and accurate; while Mr. C. Conquest, of the *Sporting Life*, acted as official timekeeper."

THE Jersey Swimming Club gave its eleventh annual fête on Wednesday, the 2nd instant, on which occasion about ten thousand people assembled on the piers to witness the matches, and other entertaining feats and *morceaux* included in the programme. The Governor, one of the most amiable and popular of men, distributed the prizes, and had a kind word for everyone and about everything. The weather, as it invariably is in Jersey, was Italian in its brightness, and all went merry as a marriage bell.

THERE will be no Lowestoft Regatta this year.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All advertisements for "THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS" should arrive not later than Thursday morning, addressed to "The Publisher," 148, Strand, W.C. Scale of Charges on application.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for insertion in "THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS" should be addressed to "The Editor," 148, Strand, W.C., and must be accompanied by the Writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not be responsible for the return of rejected communications, and to this rule he can make no exception.

Dramatic and Sporting Correspondents will oblige the Editor by placing the word "Drama" or "Sporting," as the case may be, on the corner of the envelope.

Any irregularities in the delivery of the paper should be immediately made known to the publisher, at 148, Strand.

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Estimates and Designs submitted Free of Charge.

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THE ILLUSTRATED Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1876.

WHEN, some four years ago, we assisted at the dispersion of the late Mr. Blenkiron's stud at Middle Park, consequent upon the death of its lamented master, we little thought that, in the short time which has elapsed since those four rather sensational July days, the establishment, then supposed to be finally broken up, would undergo such a revival as we have lately witnessed. Least of all could it be anticipated that a second dispersion was at hand, and that the edifice had been raised only to be demolished so soon as success seemed to have crowned the work. We have no right to speculate upon the circumstances which have induced Mr. Blenkiron to break-up his fine collection at Eltham. All we know is that the edict has gone forth, and that only a short month remains to the day of sale, when the whole of the stallions, mares, foals, and remnants of yearlings will be brought to the hammer, "unless previously disposed of." Without going so far as to say the catalogue will equal, either as regards numbers or importance, that marvellous compilation placed in our hands in 1872, we may nevertheless state that Mr. Blenkiron's list of sires and mares comprises some very valuable animals, and that no pains or expense have been spared from time to time in recruiting the ranks with the best blood in England. It must be remembered that while the father spent a lifetime in the formation of the original stud at Middle Park, the son, though possessing a nucleus for his collection, has had a comparatively short time in which to lay the foundation of a similar enterprise. But the results of his yearling sales in the last two years must have been sufficiently satisfactory to encourage his continuance in the work of reconstruction, for the averages recorded have been large, considering the magnitude of the concern, and while the hiring Rosicrucian might be considered to have effected an unequivocal "hit," the home sire, Victorious, had just made the mark which many prophesied he would do, if only a fair chance was thrown in his way. Saunterer always enjoyed a certain amount of popularity, and of the other sires it may be said that, if not quite up to former Middle Park form, they were eminently useful members, and representatives of our choicest racing strains. That the necessity should arise at this time for scattering the equine population of Middle Park to the four winds of heaven is all the more a subject for regret, because, taking everything into consideration, breeders have never had such golden prospects before them as now, when the results of a moiety of the sales of the season have been such as to fill the most desponding with brilliant hopes for the future. At a period of depression in mercantile circles, amid a universal tightness of money and disinclination to embark in speculative transactions, yearling prices never ruled so high, and this, be it remembered, at no feverish epoch in turf affairs, but on the contrary,

when it is the subject of general complaint, that things are not more lively in racing circles. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the great demand for really high-class horses will have the effect of raising prices, and if the Middle Park Stud is really doomed to dispersion, the sale could not take place at a better time. This may be poor consolation for the loss of so magnificent a collection, but Mr. Blenkiron is doubtless well-advised in his determination to "take occasion by the hand," and to sell in the best market. For other reasons besides those connected with "old associations," we shall regret to see the well-known spot untenanted by its usual occupants; and, on public grounds, disestablishment is to be lamented, for we pride ourselves especially on such nurseries of the thoroughbred as could be shown to foreigners at Cobham, Dewhurst, and Middle Park. In the dearth of any really national stud, we have had to rely on private enterprise to furnish examples of such excellent institutions, which our Continental neighbours have adopted as models, to the great advantage of horse-breeding in their different countries. With Englishmen especially there is much more in "a name" than we care to admit, and all connected with the Turf would lament if such a name as that of Middle Park should drop out of the annals of breeding, with which it has so long been connected. The anniversaries of its yearling sales have been red-letter days in many a calendar, and 'tis the place and all around it, which attracts by the remembrance of many stirring scenes enacted under its branching elms.

But why should all this be lost to us when experience suggests so easy a method of retaining all that is desirable by the very simplest agency? We have heard much talk lately of the formation of new companies upon the Cobham model, and see no reason why, under judicious management, they should not be equally successful and remunerative. Nothing could apparently be more feasible than thus to take over the Middle Park establishment from Saunterer down to the stable sponges, and to commence business forthwith, and without hindrance or interruption of any kind. Everything is there, ready to hand, and there is no occasion for expensive experiments, nor for any sudden alteration in the present method of conducting business. Moreover, the management would have the benefit of Cobham experiences, and learn what to adopt and what to avoid in the formation of a new company. All that is required seems to be a body of substantial, honest, and experienced promoters, whom the public would entrust with their money and confidence. We require no Baronial influences for forming the scheme, neither shall we look beyond the pale of respectable society for a leader in the movement. So large an undertaking is beyond the power of one individual to control its expenses and take the burden of management upon his shoulders; but a division of labour would set all things working smoothly, and experience has shown that there need be no fear of the venture turning out unremunerative. We think there is plenty of room for more than one company formed upon the "lines" of that at Cobham; and the public might be induced, at this present time of doubt and difficulty, to come forward with the money, in place of leaving it lying idle in the hands of their bankers. The only fear in a matter of this kind is, that adventurers and charlatans should endeavour to make their first profits out of its establishment; but recent experience will have done much to render the occupation of these gentry impossible, and the public will no longer rise to their lures. Horse-breeding, thanks to its expositors in the sporting press, is not the mystery it used to be, and people have been educated to the settled belief that only first-class instruments will produce results of a like nature, and that pettifoggery in breeding and a sublime belief in the doctrine of chances are merely downward steps in the direction of failure. Of this we may be well assured, that if steps are not taken in the direction indicated, another exodus of high bred matrons from our shores will have to be recorded, for the foreigners will come among us once more, with unlimited commissions to buy our choicest goods, leaving us to fight over the rag, tag, and bobtail of the sale. The Germans, Austrians, and French, may not be prepared to give such extravagant prices as have recently been realised for some of our crack mares, but their hearts are set on relieving us of all the thoroughly useful material they can lay hands upon, and they are especially particular on the points of size and soundness. For some time, not only from among thoroughbreds, but also from among their less aristocratic connections, a steady drain has been taking place in the direction of the Continent, and it is obvious that against a thoroughly organised system of obtaining supplies by subsidies from enterprising Governments, all our private resources are powerless; while no restrictions upon exports (so far as we can see) would put an end to the requisitions, for we cannot lay an embargo on high class stock, to the exclusion of animals with which we should have no objection to part. This may be a selfish reason for advocating the formation of a new company to take over the Middle Park concern, but from other points of view the project seems eminently desirable, though the time is rather short to complete arrangements, and the season of the year adverse to introduce the scheme. We believe it was Mr. Edmund Tattersall who was the first to suggest the formation of Stud Companies some years since, and certainly many of the most notable objections to his proposals have been found to arise from misconception of the subject. It is clearly apparent that breeding, when properly conducted, is a paying game; but that the dimensions of stud farms are apt to increase to such an extent as to become unwieldy and unmanageable by single individuals. In mercantile circles, monster businesses are forthwith converted into companies, with the very best results; and we cannot see why the same principle should not apply in the case of stud farms, which, after all, require but a little more *specialité* in their management than mills, looms, or collieries.

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AN AMERICAN DRAMATIC TRADE UNION.

CERTAIN American theatrical managers, calling themselves "the out-of-New-York Managers" have lately met in New-York for the purpose of establishing a novel species of trade union, the main object of which will be to keep speculators out of theatrical business, withstanding the demands of stars that are extortionate, holding the entire line of provincial Theatres in a sort of compact as to new plays, terms, time, &c., and generally looking out for their own interests.

After the election of officers, the President, Mr. John T. Ford, delivered the following address, which was ordered to be printed with the articles of organisation:—"Gentlemen—we have associated ourselves together for the protection and improvement of dramatic interests in this country; the necessity for combined action from various causes, are so apparent, and the many advantages that will result from thorough organisation so evident, that I congratulate you on the unanimity of judgment and earnestness of purpose with which you have entered upon the duty of what may be properly styled a dramatic reform. The manager of a legitimate theatre is much embarrassed by two duties, often antagonistic. The first, and most pleasant of these in an artistic sense, is to produce Shakspearean and other classic, as well as deserving modern, plays, with a well-balanced company and proper surroundings. The other, and most imperative in a business sense, is to secure such extent of patronage as will enable him to meet the pecuniary obligations he incurs. The insatiate demands by the public for novelty and exceptional features, at times for sensation and spectacle, too often render our 'best laid schemes' abortive, because that class of entertainment usually pay better than plays of the highest intellectual and dramatic value, and their sensuous decorations prove of more business worth than the cultured excellence of a company. We frequently, therefore, find profit in yielding to this taste of the public when it drifts into the illegitimate, and generally find loss in endeavouring to meet the desire for the spectacular by incorporating it with the legitimate. These troubles exist everywhere, save where a government subsidises the theatre to protect the manager in the production of the works of the best authors. Too many theatre-goers sympathise with many newspaper readers in a craving for the sensational, and thereby compel catering to a morbid appetite for continuous excitement and unceasing display. So much may be said in our defence as against adverse criticism; for if we can propose no remedy, we can only strive to go as high as we dare, in catering to the taste of those who, as lovers of amusement, have partially, at least, supplanted the lovers of the drama. But for other embarrassments, we can find a remedy in joint action. It is a simple business proposition that no star is worth, or should command half the receipts of an engagement, unless he or she can attract more than twice the expense, and no other star should receive more than his or her expenses until the expenses of the theatre that they appear within is secured to its manager. Next, we have two many theatres to follow the star system alone. Stars have greatly increased in number, but those sure of public favour are few, and their engagements usually far between. Some have given up the control of their time to middle men, who exact terms never before asked or tolerated in the profession. Fifty-five, sixty, and seventy per cent. of the gross receipts have been demanded and paid for attraction. The star receiving from forty to fifty, the middle man or speculator from twenty to thirty, and the manager from thirty to forty-five per cent. of the entire receipts, to compensate him for company, theatre, scenery, orchestra, printing, advertising, and all the other expenses of his business, as well as his own services. How these terms compel the manager to reduce the cost and quality of his company, orchestra, and other parts of his business so as to realise enough to meet expenses, must be apparent to any thoughtful mind that gives the subject consideration. It is just here our greatest danger exists, and where a change is most needed. We must be our own middle men, if stars are to be engaged for an entire season. We can, by combination—in our own country and abroad—secure stars and plays for a proper compensation. We can maintain, pay, and make an attraction of stock companies, with proper performances, by a united effort. The present condition of affairs forbodes destruction of all that is desirable in management, and the demand of self-preservation compels the change we propose to make. It is not our purpose, or our wish, to pay less than its value for any star attraction; on the other hand it is our interest to afford if every reasonable opportunity, but we must insist that some consideration is due to the stock actor and the manager, that the income of the theatre should be equitably distributed, so as to foster young genius and talent, and to make the stage, as it should be, a school for the stars of the future; not a mere frame or background to heighten the effect of a single figure, but a harmonious picture, pleasing, compensating, and satisfactory in its entire manipulations. As a natural sequence of an organised effort to improve our prospects, we must endeavour, by securing all the new and attractive plays of the English, French, German, and American stage, to make our dramatic companies strong and attractive, the scenery a decided feature, and pay every attention to stage decoration. We can arrange for a chain of theatres, attraction that can be consecutively occupied an entire season. Locally we must transmute opposition amongst ourselves to competition, grade our terms to stars rationally, according to our advantages and expenses, and justify ourselves before the people by a fair and generous development of the stage, so that it will be made a perpetual source of the most noble and useful entertainments, and to use the words of that veteran and greatest of managers, Colley Cibber, writing of the golden era of the stage, that followed a similar combination in London during the early part of the last century:—"This then will be the happy period when both actors and managers are in the highest enjoyment of general content and prosperity. The polite world too, by their general attention, their sensible taste and their generous encouragement to authors and actors, will once more see the stage under a due regulation, capable of being what the wisest ages thought it might be, the most rational scheme that human wit could form, to dissipate with innocence the cares of life; to allure even the turbulent or ill-disposed from worse meditation, and to give the leisure hours of business and virtue an instructive recreation."

THE following are some of the principal attractions at the Alexandra Palace for the ensuing week:—on Monday the North London Temperance Fête takes place; and on Wednesday the great Police Fête of the season, when the amusements will be of a varied and attractive nature, open from nine in the morning till nine at night. The grand ballet, by the artistes of Her Majesty's Opera, will be continued. Brockman's Circus and Trained Animal Show will give two performances daily during the week, and the Baden Baden Concerts, and Illumination of the Grove will be continued every evening except Friday.

IN consequence of the coroner's jury in the Bravo investigation finding a verdict of wilful murder, the police authorities have issued a notice stating that a reward of £250 will be paid by government to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer or murderers, and any accomplice, not being the person who committed the murder who shall give such evidence shall be pardoned.

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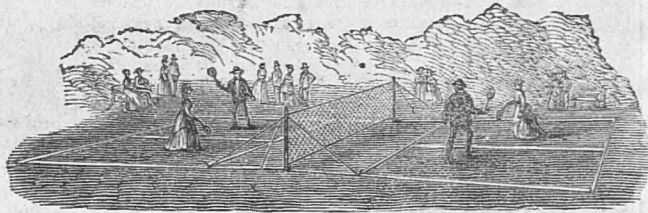
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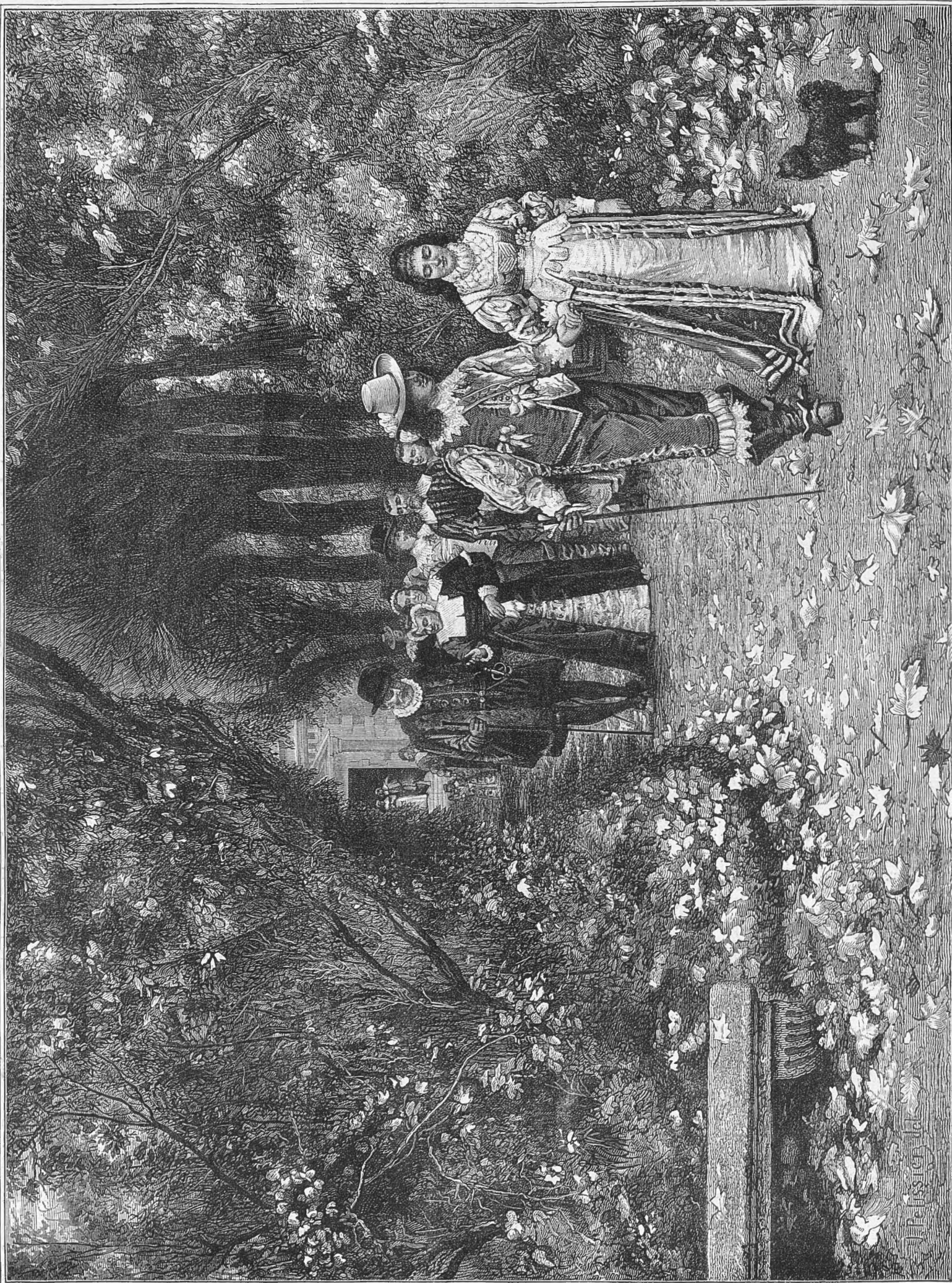
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